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Inter-Arab Affairs

King Fahd Mediates Between Egypt, Syria

JN1504153189 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I in Arabic 13 Apr 89 pp 1, 21

[Text] Cairo—Egyptian political sources have told AL-ITTIHAD that Saudi King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz has resumed his mediation efforts between Egypt and Syria to clear the atmosphere between the two fraternal countries and that the current efforts are aimed at holding a meeting of Egyptian and Syrian officials in Riyadh after Ramadan.

The sources explained that Saudi Arabia's recent contacts with Egypt indicate Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's desire to hold a summit meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in Riyadh and that King Fahd expressed his welcome of that initiative. The sources added that contacts with Syria on the issue also indicate that the Egyptian-Syrian differences at this stage center on Syria's demand that Egypt freeze its political relations with Israel until final peace arrangements are reached through an international peace conference.

The sources also pointed out that the success of the Saudi mediation efforts between Egypt and Syria will speed up efforts to convene the Arab summit conference. Saudi Arabia stressed the need for Egypt to participate in the conference and for discussing the issue of Egypt's return to the Arab League.

PLO Delegation Reportedly To Visit Syria 'Soon'

JN1504163489 Manama WAKH in English 1525 GMT 15 Apr 89

Abu Dhabi, April 15 (GNA)—The mission of the Algerian Foreign Minister Boualem Bessaieh in the Syrian capital has achieved "tangible" progress on rapprochement between Syria and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), AL-ITTIHAD newspaper reported today.

Quoting high level sources in Damascus, the Abu Dhabi-based daily said that a high ranking Palestinian delegation led by Faruq Qaddumi, chief of the PLO Political Department, will visit Syria soon, to hold talks with Syrian officials to pave the way for comprehensive reconciliation between Syria and the PLO.

The sources told the paper that Palestinian and Syrian parties would meet in the presence of an Algerian delegation led by Foreign Minister Boualem, adding that the Algerian presence was enjoyed western and Soviet support.

They predicted that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat would visit Syria in light of the outcome of the Palestinian delegation's visit to Syria.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Urges U.S. To Condemn 'Massacre'

JN1504075089 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0640 GMT 15 Apr 89

[By Faruq Shukri]

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Apr (WAKH)—Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine, has called on the U.S. Administration to condemn the massacre perpetrated by the Israeli soldiers in the village of Nahhalin on Thursday—the massacre that resulted in the martyrdom of 8 citizens and the wounding of 43 others. In a meeting with correspondents of Arab and foreign news agencies in Baghdad last night, 'Arafat described the Israeli operation as a bestial conspiracy carried out by the Israelis as part of the Shamir plan to escalate his orders against the popular intifadah [uprising].

He said: "I want to ask here: What is the U.S. Administration's stand on this massacre, particularly since Shamir gave his orders while he was in the United States?" 'Arafat added that this means either Shamir has challenged the U.S. Administration or the administration approves this massacre—a matter that calls on me to ask Washington to define its stand on this massacre.

'Arafat stressed that the PLO will follow up this massacre and condemn it through the United Nations. He said that the contacts the PLO is holding with the brothers and friends in New York aim at knowing the atmosphere to take the necessary step. He said: "The Palestinian move aims at issuing a statement condemning this massacre without convening a UN Security Council session. And if this is impossible, the PLO and its friends will call for such a meeting or call for an emergency session of the UN General Assembly."

'Arafat described Yitzhaq Shamir's statement on holding elections in the occupied Arab territory a trial balloon. He added: "I want to ask here: In accordance with which law will these elections be held? And if they will be municipal elections, we will not forget the 1976 experiment, because those who were elected were killed, expelled, imprisoned, or dismembered."

'Arafat pointed out that Shamir's recent statements on not withdrawing from the occupied Palestinian territory have torpedoed the idea of the trial balloons he had previously presented. 'Arafat said that Shamir must respond to the international initiative adopted by 138 states at the United Nations last December—the initiative that calls for Israel's withdrawal and the deployment of UN forces to enable the Palestinian people to exercise their right to self-determination.

The PLO chairman strongly denied that Shamir's call for elections is an initiative. The call, he said, is a traial balloon aimed at involving the Egyptians and Jordanians as well. 'Arafat added: "But, the two sisterly countries, Egypt and Jordan, have defined their stand on this attempt."

In his answer to a question, 'Arafat expressed full confidence that, during his coming visit to Washington, King Husayn will completely assume his role in confronting the Israeli campaign aimed at propagating the balloons launched by Shamir. He expressed his hope that the Jordanian monarch will succeed so that he can erase the effects of these Israeli balloons.

'Arafat added that during the recent Ismailia meetings a Palestinian-Egyptian-Jordanian agreement was reached on a unified tripartite stand to face the situation in the occupied territory as well as on the necessity to end the Israeli occupation of the occupied Palestinian and Arab territory. He added that an agreement was also reached to insist on implementing Resolution No 242 calling for Israel's withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territory. And this was reiterated later in Resolution No 605.

'Arafat announced that a meeting between himself and the Egyptian president will take within the next few hours. He added that he had received a quick message on the results of President Mubarak's talks in Washington. However, he added, the coming meeting will enable him to be familiarized in the details of the successful visit to America by President Husni Mubarak.

'Arafat described the American move vis-a-vis the Palestine question as very slow. However, he gave no details.

He noted that a tripartite meeting will be held between himself, President Mubarak, and Jordanian monarch King Husayn after the king's return from Washington to assess the American stand.

Answering a question on the American stand, 'Arafat said: "So far, the U.S. Administration has not officially informed us of its opinion on the trial balloons presented by Shamir to gain time." He added that he expects the third round of the Palestinian-American dialogue to be held at the end of this month or the beginning of next month. He added that the U.S. Adminstration is expected to inform us of its stand.

On the occasion of the 1st anniversary of the assassination of Commander Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], 'Arafat said that the enemy believed that by assassinating the martyr leader and symbol Abu Jihad it could end the giant intifadah [uprising]. However, he added, the masses proved through their firmness, belief, and sacrifices that the martyr's blood was not wasted. Each day, the intifadah produces volcanoes through the sacrifices to prove that the occupation will not continue on our land, the dawn and victory will emerge, and the Palestinian flag will fly high over Jerusalem, the capital of the independent Palestinian state. He said: "In politics, this has become a matter of time, and the Palestinian state is very close."

'Arafat condemned what is taking place in Lebanon. He said: "We consider what is taking place a crime against the Lebanese and Palestinian people." 'Arafat called for stopping the playing with fire in Lebanon. He said: "The Israeli conspiracy and Israel's agents aim at fragmenting Lebanon as they did in Palestine in the past."

He added that one Palestine is enough for the Arab nation and this nation must not accept Palestine's tragedy in Lebanon. He warned again against a war to be launched by Israel in southern Lebanon soon. He said that the enemy is concentrating its troops in the northern border under the pretext that it is moving the Border Police to Gaza. He said that Israel has sent an armored division and a brigade to the border strip recently within the framework of a plan to prepare a war scenario.

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat expressed his thanks to France and French President Francois Mitterrand for their moral stand expressed by either the dispatch of a two ships of relief aid to Lebanon or the clear political stand. He added: "Hence, I call on my Arab brothers to shoulder their responsibilities and continue the Arabization of the Lebanese issue, before internationalizing it."

'Arafat noted that his meeting with French President Mitterrand will take place soon. However, he apologized for not defining the date and venue because this depends on the French Government.

Answering a question on the existence of a mediation to improve the Palestinian-Syrian relationship, 'Arafat said that Algeria exerted efforts in this regard during the recent visit to Algeria by President Hafiz al-Asad. He added that Algeria will continue these efforts through the Algerian foreign minister's tour of Amman, Baghdad, and Damascus. He said that he abides by the Palestine National Council's resolution to this effect.

'Arafat announced that Shamir agreed on a plan prepared by the Mosad—after appointing a new chief—to carry out assassinations against Palestinian leaders, including himself. He added that the plan is ready and waiting for the approval of the Inner Cabinet to begin its implementation after Shamir has personally approved it. He added that the information he has noted that the implementation mission is given to Major General Aharon Levi, who is now moving with forged Arab and European passports within the plan of implementation.

The president of the State of Palestine reiterated his readiness to achieve an Afghan reconciliation. He said that reconciliation is necessary so that Afghanistan will

not turn into a new Lebanon and become an attrition point in the Islamic fold. He promised to exert more efforts to achieve this reconciliation.

Further on 'Arafat Remarks

JN1504113889 Baghdad INA in English 1100 GMT 15 Apr 89

[Text] Baghdad, Apr. 15, INA—President Yasir 'Arafat of the State of Palestine has demanded the American Administration to show its attitude over massacres perpetrated by "Israel" and asked whether Shamir aimed at challenging Washington or executing his new crime by agreement with it.

"The American Administration has to reply to my question as it has not yet pronounced any word against criminals who killed the Palestinians in their homes in Nahhalin (village)," President 'Arafat stated in a press conference held here overnight.

He confirmed that the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) was consulting the United Nations and Security Council members and that the State of Palestine would resort to calling for a U.N. emergency session.

Concerning the alleged elections in the occupied land, President 'Arafat expressed scepticism over their intentions and reminded with the hard destiny of those who won the 1976 elections. He stressed that the PLO and Paledstinian people were advocating the elections stipulated for an Israeli pull-out and being managed under the U.N. auspices. [passage omitted]

President 'Arafat said that "Israel" was preparing for a war scenario as was announced by "Israel" Chief of Staff Dan Shomron who necessitated a pre-emptive strike, and "Israel" staff command had studied and trained for an air operation against Iraqi targets.

Another scenario was being plotted concerning the situation in Lebanon, President 'Arafat disclosed adding that solving the Lebanese crisis was bound to entering Arab deterrent forces and not Syrian ones, and that would not require a new decision, for there was a still fresh decision in force.

'Abd Rabbuh on 'Massacre'

JN1504201389 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1825 GMT 15 Apr 89

[Text] Brother Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, member of the PLO Executive Committee, has stated that the organization intends to lodge the massacre perpetrated in the village of Nahhalin with the UN Security Council as soon as possible and will ask the council to adopt practical, deterrent measures against the Israeli entity.

Brother Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh said the PLO will adopt some practical measures to put an end to these crimes and the Israeli entity alone bears responsibility for what will happen. He called on the United States to force the Israeli entity to put an end to its ugly crimes and said: We know that Washington can do so if it wishes. We ask it: what about respect for the Palestinian human rights and why this silence over the Israeli entity's crimes against the defenseless Palestinian citizens?

Brother Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh asked: Do we not see real terrorism in the genocides being perpetrated against our defenseless Palestinian people in our occupied Palestinian territory? He said that the savage Nahhalin massacre, which was organized by Yitzhaq Shamir, proves that the Israeli entity aims at drowning the region in a blood bath. He added that it was the Israeli Government that dispatched this criminal clique of Border Guards, who committed another crime in Gaza a few weeks ago, and who are today carrying out massacres and practicing terrorism in the Palestinian towns, villages, and camps as well as in the blessed Al-Aqsa mosque.

Brother Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh wondered: Where does U.S. President George Bush place the Israeli terrorism and savagery? Why does the U.S. Administration neither condemn the criminals nor brand them with terrorism? The United States alone is protecting the Israeli entity today and it can put an end to Israeli state terrorism.

'Abd al-Rahim Ahmad Comments

JN1404132989 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1204 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Apr (INA)—'Abd al-Rahim Ahmad, member of the PLO Executive Committee, has called for an immediate move to stop the massacres being perpetrated by the Zionist occupation forces and the Syrian regime's forces in the occupied Arab territories and Lebanon.

In an interview with INA today, the Palestinian official said: The Zionist occupation forces have carried out a new massacre of our kinfolk in Nahhalin and Rafah. This massacre stresses the reality of [Israel's] fascist, racist intentions and disproves its pretense of being civilized before world public opinion, which is now called upon to raise its voice and condemn the bestial Zionist crimes.

He added: Israel has clear schemes aimed at annihilating our people or forcing them to leave their land because they rejected and resisted the occupation as any other civilized people would do under occupation and repression.

'Abd al-Rahim Ahmad, secretary general of the Arab Front for the Liberation of Palestine, called on the United Nations and the UN Security Council's permanent member states to adopt all measures to put an immediate end to the Zionist process of annihilation to move ahead toward reaching a final solution to this tragedy through the convocation of an international conference, given that it is the only possible way to guarantee our people's right to self-determination.

The Executive Committee member stressed that Israel's fresh crimes place the United States before a new moral test. He said Shamir began large-scale blood baths after his return from Washington. This calls upon Washington more than ever before to voice its opinion before anybody else about what happened. Otherwise, he said, Washington will be affirming the falsehood of its pretense about being able to play the role of mediator in looking for a solution to the Middle East issue.

He added: We hope with great confidence that the American [not further identified] will reject and condemn Israel's crimes. We also call on it to put pressure on the U.S. Administration to make Israel discontinue its crimes.

Ahmad expressed bitterness because the escalation of Zionist crimes coincides with massacres that are not less bestial. These massacres are being carried out by the Damascus regime against our kinfolk in Lebanon. He said these massacres serve the Zionist objectives and cover the crimes in Palestine.

He said: We warn against the prevailing suspect silence about the Syrian regime's massacres in Lebanon. This silence will have grave consequences on the national and pan-Arab security of all Arab states. He said a speedy Arab move is required, especially after the Damascus rulers placed the six-member Arab committee entrusted with tackling the Lebanese crisis in an impasse, which obstructed its efforts to reach a solution to restore the unity of the Lebanese people and the integrity of their territory.

Concluding his statement, he affirmed that this situation makes the Arab League and the Arab masses bound to move actively to alleviate and tackle the crisis of Lebanon, which has given a great deal for Palestine and the Arab nation.

PLO Issues Statement

JN1504203189 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 Apr 89

["Political statement" issued by the PLO Executive Committee on the "massacres" of Nahhalin and the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque on 14 April—place not given]

[Text] The Zionist occupation authorities perpetrated a new massacre against the sons of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories when it fired at citizens in the Nahhalin village, killing eight citizens and wounding tens of men, women, old people, and children, in a treacherous bestial attack carried out by the Israeli Border Guards against this village. With this new massacre, the Zionist authorities have once again proved their determination to pursue their criminal policy and adherence to organized and mass killing as a basic means against our people's intifadah [uprising] and their struggle for their independence and national rights.

This premeditated massacre against the Palestinian people flagrantly explains immense threats to the Palestinian people under occupation, and clearly prove that occupation has become a threat to basic human rights—the right to live and survive. It has become necessary for the international community to take urgent action to protect our people from these crimes, to place the occupied territories under international supervision, and to end the Israeli occupation.

This hideous massacre coincides with the most provocative Zionist measures against the people. These measures are represented by depriving our people of the right to perform their religious rites and Friday prayers at the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque and to call for prayers from the mosques' minarets in the occupied territories. These measures are only an Israeli means to retaliate against the Palestinian people and to encroach on the holy places during the blessed month of Ramadan. These measures will only contribute to the escalation of the blessed intifadah.

While it is deeply concerned over threats to the Palestinian people's basic rights and the danger the Zionist measures pose to the occupied territories, the PLO Executive Committee calls on the UN Security Council to take immediate action to condemn the hideous Israeli massacre, to take effective deterrent measures against Israel, and to secure urgent protection of our people under the yoke of occupation.

The PLO Executive Committee urges the U.S. Administration to take a clear-cut and serious stand against the flagrant Zionist violations of the Palestinian human rights, and to exert efficient pressure on the Israeli Government to put an end to its criminal measures against the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories.

The PLO Executive Committee also urges world states, governments, parties, and various forces to express their denunciation of and anger with this hideous massacre and to take action to guarantee the Palestinian people's basic human rights to freedom and self-determination. It also appeals to the Islamic world states and the Islamic Conference Organization to take immediate action to defend the Palestinian people's right to live with freedom and dignity on their national soil, to condemn the successive massacres, and to defend the sanctity of Al-Aqsa Mosque and all the holy places in the occupied territories.

The PLO Executive Committee stresses that the heroic Palestinian people will not be intimidated by such massacres and that the iron-fist policy will not be able to stop their struggle or undermine their determination to pursue their blessed heroic intifadah against occupation until victory and independence are achieved. It also urges our Arab nation—states and peoples—to further support our people against occupation and this hideous massacre.

The committee also appeals to the Arab nation to show loyalty to the blood of the righteous martyrs and to guarantee the future of the new Palestinian and Arab generations. The stone-throwing children of these generations have expressed their determination to pursue struggle for the sake of freedom and to water its tree with the blood of martyrs until the objectives of our nation and people of deterring occupation from all the Arab and Palestinian territories are achieved and until our rights to repatriation, self-determination, and independence on our national soil are secured.

Bassam Abu Sharif on Syria's Plan in Lebanon
NC1604181689 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 16 Apr 89

[Text] Bassam Abu Sharif, adviser to the PLO Executive Committee chairman, said today that Syria is carrying out the systematic destruction of Lebanon. Syria believes that by destroying Lebanon, its vital resources, and infrastructure it will obtain strong cards to permit it to participate in the political settlement in the Middle East.

Abu Sharif added that the PLO sees that this systematic destruction of Lebanon on the part of Syria is a crime that does not threaten Lebanon alone, but also the entire Arab area and even Syria itself. He expressed the PLO's readiness to undertake all efforts for the sake of Lebanon's unity and its salvation from the plot that is being hatched against it. Abu Sharif called on the Arab nation to move swiftly to stop the massacre being committed by the Damascus regime against the Lebanese people. This massacre, he added, is naturally directed against the Palestinian intifadah [uprising] and the Arabs.

Ahmad Jibril Addresses Anniversary Rally
JN1404203089 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1830 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Excerpts] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] held a rally at the Arab Club in Al-Yarmuk camp in Damascus today marking the 24th anniversary of the PFLP-GC's establishment. Dozens of banners were raised in the camp's streets and alleys and thousands of Palestinian flags, PFLP-GC flags, and pictures of the Palestinian revolution and intifadah [uprising] martyrs were shown. [passage omitted]

Speaking at the rally on behalf of the Palestinian revolution and the Palestine National Salvation Front, Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muraghah] said: The glorious uprising is now in its 17th month and is growing day after day. When they imagine that it is retreating, it becomes fiercer and stronger, determined to liberate the whole of Palestine.

Abu Musa added: Yasir 'Arafat continues to indulge in his concessions. His meetings in Ismailia with Husni Mubarak and others was intended to impose and generalize a new Camp David. He added: These represent only themselves, because the real representatives of the Palestinian people are the Nahhalin martyrs, the martyrs of the Qibyah operation, and all those who reject concessions and take armed struggle as a path toward liberation and victory.

Abu Musa also said: The deviationists approve in principle Shamir's proposals on elections. This approval means besieging the intifadah, besieging the revolution in Palestine. However, we say that our people's will inside Palestine is strong and will not be affected by plots. [passage omitted]

PFLP-GC Secretary General Ahmad Jibril made a pan-Arab, comprehensive speech in which he said: We meet today to celebrate the 24th anniversary of the PFLP-GC. These 24 years were preceded by 6 years of underground operations and secret activities. [passage omitted]

Jibril launched a fierce attack against the United States and those who hold dialogue with it and said: The U.S. Administration is extending to the enemy all kinds of aid and support. This administration cannot be an arbitrator, a mediator. It is not only taking sides with the Zionist enemy. Indeed, it has an organic, strategic alliance with it.

Therefore, dialogue with the United States is aimed first and foremost at guaranteeing the Zionist interests in Palestine. Washington asks its interlocutors to offer further concessions to serve the Zionist enemy's political amd military goals.

Jibril added: The United States raises a hue and cry whenever the Arab states establish relations with the USSR. It has done so a few days ago with the Libyan Jamahiriyah and Syria. It does not want anyone to say anything. It is supplying the enemy with all the modern, sophisticated arsenals of weapons. The Zionist entity is a U.S. imperialist undertaking.

Jibril also said: The United States is the enemy of peoples and nations and it should be confronted so it will abandon its folly. The American people are asked to rise and renounce imperialist practices and return to the Wilson Doctrine. [passage omitted]

Speaking on the U.S. campaign against the PFLP-GC, Jibril said: Every day, and in their radio and press reports, they accuse us of terrorism after 30 years of our pan-Arab and nationalist struggle and after we have offered thousands of martyrs. We are ready to confront them in broad daylight. We will never lay down our arms. We fought the enemy in the (?Gibor) camp, and our comrades triumphed there to the extent that an enemy soldier said that hell opened its fire against them.

He said: The enemy attacked us in Al-Damur on the 1st anniversary of the intifadah and intended to inflict the greatest possible losses on us. However, we confronted the enemy, besieged its forces, and inflicted a great defeat on it. This is our determination to struggle and fight the enemy.

Speaking on ties with Syria, Jibril said: Damascus is the incubator of our revolution, and we share blood with it, with the Lebanese nationalists, with the Great Jamahiriyah, and with the Islamic revolution in Iran. We have defeated the 17 May agreement, which is a Lebanese copy of the Camp David agreement.

Referring to the blessed Palestinian intifadah, Jibril said: This intifadah was the result of the struggle of our children, men, and old people. They are confronting the tanks, offering many martyrs. Are they doing this so that 'Arafat might go and meet with the enemy leaders? [passage omitted]

Views 'U.S. Scheme'

JN1504125889 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 0930 GMT 15 Apr 89

[Speech by Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, at Arab Club in Al-Yarmuk camp in Damascus on 14 April on PFLP-GC's 24th anniversary—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] There are those who claim that they want an independent Palestinian state that will confront Israeli designs. They say this while they want this [Palestinian] entity to be open to the Israelis so that the Palestinian people will carry the Zionists and Zionism to Baghdad, Damascus, and north Africa. This is how they understand the future of this political settlement. They lie to others and tell them: This is an incremental solution. We will stop there now, but we will proceed forward later. You hear them say that they do not want a barrier or a Berlin wall. They say: All we want is open borders.

Brothers, you recently heard 'Arafat's famous statement in which he called for the establishment of an economic market linking Israel, the Palestinians, Jordan, and Lebanon. This is their understanding of the nature of this conflict 25 years later.

Brothers and sisters, they now try to sell themselves to the simpletons of our Palestinian people through the game of recognition and the U.S. dialogue.

Brothers and sisters, I would like to tell you frankly that we, the Arab peoples, and even the Jews who came from all parts of the world to Palestine, are victims of the imperialists. We are the victims of the ambitions of the United States and Britain in our Arab region.

Who says that the United States can be an arbitrator or mediator? They want to make you believe that the United States can be neutral. They want to brainwash us and delete from our minds the evil, and dirty record of the United States against our Arab nation and against all the peoples in the world. They want to consider us simpletons. Israel is an imperialist scheme. Israel is a U.S. scheme. How, then, can the United States be an arbitrator and a mediator between us and the Israeli enemy?

Brothers, the United States is the peoples' enemy, the enemy of nations. The United States must be confronted. The U.S. Administration must be confronted to make it desist from its misguided policy. The U.S. people must rise and remove from their minds the imperialist concepts and the inclination to persecute people. They must go back to the principles that were championed at the turn of this century, to Nelson's [as heard] principles. The United States raises a hue and cry because the Soviet Union sent eight planes to Libya. The United States and Europe raise a hue and cry because the Soviet Union recently sent 13 planes to Syria. As for Israel, the door remains open to it to have it act as a bludgeon that keeps hitting the Arab nation morning, noon, and night.

But it is alright for Israel to do what it pleases and reach as far as Tunis and Baghdad, and there's no telling where it will strike next. Israel is allowed to possess nuclear bombs, and germ and chemical weapons. As for this nation, should it attempt to be master of its own will, they will raise all kinds of objections. Such is the United States.

Brothers: The United States is not about to change its stands on the Arab nation. And the statements are only designed to mislead you and the Arab people throughout the Arab homeland. These statements are meant for local consumption to protect U.S. agents who have gone to kneel before Bush and seek his protection against our Arab people. Enough of that! Have you not learned your history lessons? Just consider what happened to [Egypt's deposed king] Faruq, Nuri al-Sa'id, 'Abd al-Ilah, King 'Abdallah, and Anwar al-Sadat. Please give us even lies and empty words [sentence as heard].

Such is the United States. The United States has begun using certain expressions in order to dupe the capitulationists and weaklings, but it will not trick the revolutionaries. The United States now uses the expression easing tension. You probably have heard the Americans use this expression and that of scaling down violence. They want us, in other words, to forget about the intifadah [uprising]. Another expression they have used is improving the climate and cultivating the ground so it becomes suitable for planting the seeds of direct talks.

The United States says it supports Resolution No 242, but it also says that there is a difference between withdrawal and sovereignty. We do say that Israel must pull out, but which party will have sovereignty? Sovereignty might be interpreted as a joint Israeli-Palestinian-Jordanian one. They are manipulating the capitulationists

with a set of phrases. 'Arafat is forming political committees every day [words indistinct] every American they bring to him. Every time he utters a word, they begin to rejoice and hope for action by the United States. Even the political identity of the Palestinians [sentence incomplete as heard].

He says there is a political identity of local Palestinians. As for the identity of Palestinians in Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon, he considers them refugees. We understand the political identity of the Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. [sentence as heard] These are the kind of expressions uttered by Bush and the White House on a daily basis.

America says that the relationship must be indirect [words indistinct] the Americans—the American dialogue with the PLO on one hand and the practical dealing between Israel and the Palestinians in the occupied territory. You should understand that the moment you stop making it easy for Israel to deal and negotiate with the Palestinians in the occupied territory, our dialogue with you outside will be obstructed and stopped. [passage indistinct]. This is blackmail. Our dialogue with you outside will continue if you continue to facilitate the relationship with the Israelis because there will be new initiatives for the Palestinians inside the occupied territory.

Look what Baker has said recently. Two days ago, Baker said that the U.S. Administration believes that the PLO should occupy the back seat, the back seat. Baker, in fact, said that the PLO undoubtedly will have a role, but certainly it will not be that of the major player. Who is the major player? The role of the PLO must be played through the United States, because Israel refuses to deal with it.

O brothers, this is the United States. They ululated to hold dialogue with it and pin hope on it. And now you see them kneeling before them, saying: Please, give us a solution. Otherwise, these Arab masses—from the ocean to the sea—will revolt and destroy our palaces and thrones. There will be extremists only. And they make threats about the extremists day and night.

Brothers and sisters: You clearly see the campaign targetted against us in the PFLP-GC. We are mentioned in the world media organs every day and every hour. Why? We wonder why America, the superpower, is preoccupied with us in the PFLP-GC morning, noon, and night. We are not a state. Otherwise, we will change our name and give ourselves a great name. [applause and laughter] America is confronting us. After our 30 years of struggle, they now want to accuse us of terrorism. We have been waging a struggle for 30 years. [passage omitted]

Brothers and sisters: 'Arafat is trying by all means to imitate Al-Sadat, as Al-Sadat was able to exploit the blood of the brave Egyptian soldiers who crossed the Barlev line, the heroic Syrian forces who entered the Golan, and all the soldiers of the Arab nation. 'Arafat is trying to exploit the blood of the intifadah and the blood of this revolution from Khalid al-Amin, the first Fatah martyr, until today's martryrs and including the martyrs of the Nahhalin massacres yesterday.

'Arafat is trying to exploit this blood as Al-Asad exploited the blood of the Arab soldiers and jumped toward Camp David, toward peace with Israel, and toward peace with the United States. 'Arafat is also trying to exploit the blood of our people in the occupied territory to jump toward peace with Israel.

However, we say to him that our Palestinian people everywhere are lying in wait for him. O brothers, we challenge them. The intifadah will escalate and expand. The Israelis must realize that they should withdraw from the West Bank and Gaza without conditions, without peace or recognition, and without relinquishment or normalization. [passage omitted]

We say to our people, our nation, our people inside the occupied territory, our mothers, our martyrs, and our families that we will continue with armed struggle. We will fight, we will fight everywhere. America will not terrorize us. America will not terrorize us. America is terrorism. America and the U.S. Administration killed Allende and Lumubaba. It tried to kill Castro and Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

America shot down the Iranian Airbus in the Gulf and killed women and children. America and Israel destroyed the Libyan over Sinai. America and Israel every day kill our children and women in Palestine and Lebanon. We do not fear those people. This nation will triumph, will triumph, will triumph. And may God be with you.

Al-Husayni Reiterates Refusal of Shamir Plan

JN1504205089 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1825 GMT 15 Apr 89

[Text] Faysal al-Husayni, director of the Palestinian Studies Center in Jerusalem, reiterated the refusal of our Palestinian people inside the newly born Palestinian state to hold elections under the Israeli occupation. At a press conference held in Cairo yesterday, he said that these elections should be held under the auspices of the international organization after the withdrawal of the Israeli forces of occupation. He also stressed that any negotiations on the Palestine question should be with the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Al-Husayni added that any solution to the Palestine question should take place through an international peace conference to be attended by all the parties involved, including the PLO and the permanent Security Council member states. He also said that the establishment of a confederation with Jordan should take place after the establishment of the Palestinian state. He

affirmed that the Palestinian popular intifadah [uprising] will continue and escalate until an independent Palestinian state is established. He condemned the Zionist occupation forces' massacres in the village of Nahhalin at dawn last Thursday.

'Arafat Rejects Shamir Election Proposal

LD1604195389 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1602 GMT 16 Apr 89

[Excerpt] An authorized Jordanian source has announced talks beween Jordan and the PLO before the Jordanian monarch's visit to the United States.

Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] arrived in Amman late last night from Cairo. King Husayn headed the officials welcoming brother President Abu Ammar in his capacity as president of the State of Palestine. The brother president and leader had earlier visited Cairo and Baghdad. In the Egyptian capital, he held lengthy talks with President Mubarak on the developments in the Palestinian cause and also the developments in the occupied territories.

Before leaving Cairo, brother President Abu 'Ammar announced his rejection of Shamir's proposals saying, in a joint press conference held with President Mubarak: We refuse to hold elections under the shadow of occupation. He added: Elections will be held after the occupation is ended and after Israel withdraws, under UN auspices as in Namibia where elections will be held after the withdrawal of Pretoria's racist regime.

Brother leader Abu 'Ammar went on to say: I would like to ask the United States why it does not apply the same rule in the occupied Palestinian territories.

Moreover, Presidents Mubarak and 'Arafat emphasized their interest in the Lebanese issue, and in this respect Mubarak declared: All foreign troops must leave Lebanon in order to restore peace.

MENA reported that Mubarak and 'Arafat made these statements at a joint press conference that lasted nearly 2 hours. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Interviewed on Palestinian Issue

LD1104224589 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 2115 GMT 11 Apr 89

[From the "World Panorama" program presented by Zdzislaw Stankiewicz and Jan Gadomski]

[Text] We usually begin our program with events taking place in the capital cities of other countries. Today is an exception: We begin with Warsaw. Yasir 'Arafat has ended his official visit to Poland; he is chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and president of the State of Palestine. Before flying out of Warsaw, he agreed to receive our editorial colleague Krzysztof Wojna at his residence.

[Begin recording] ['Arafat speaking in English with superimposed Polish translation] Nobody can live in the shadow of the past. Solutions must be found for the future—solutions for the new generation.

[Wojna] With these words, Yasir 'Arafat began his answer to the question of whether it is not a kind of paradox that his closest ally in the Arab world today is Egypt, the only country that has signed a peace treaty with Israel; and also Jordan, which has close links with the West and is ruled by a king, who at one time ordered shots fired at Palestinians.

['Arafat] One can't be a prisoner of the past. We take reality into consideration. We constantly analyze it, from the angle of the changes taking place. We are not just concerned with the words. Look at what has happened in Europe, although divided into countries that were at war with each other, which speak a dozen different languages, it finally created an organism like the EEC. There are no permanent enemies, or permanent friends.

[Wojna] Do you see changes in Israel that augur the day that Israel will accept a just solution to the conflict over Palestine?

['Arafat] We see changes in Israeli society. It is no accident that in the last poll, 65 percent of those polled were in favor of dialogue with the PLO. In the previous poll, 54 percent were in favor of dialogue. We notice an increase in those who support peace and a consolidation of democratic and progressive tendencies. At the same time, however, we see an increase in fanatical groups. In the previous Knesset, the Israeli parliament, the fanatics had eight seats; now they have 18. Peace is not concluded with friends. Peace can be achieved only as a result of an agreement with the enemy.

[Wojna] What is the Palestinians' goal for the dialogue entered into with the United States?

['Arafat] The Americans were against talks with the PLO, but they are talking in the end. They were against my speaking at the United Nations, yet it happened. The United Nations transferred the debate from New York to Geneva. What was supposed to do us damage brought exactly the opposite results; 150 countries supported the PLO and only 2 were against—the United States and Israel. In the past, powerful forces were against the Polish state. The intention was to destroy it and remove the name of Poland from the political map, and what happened? Poland exists. We are dealing with similar circumstances.

[Wojna] Do you think that one day you will convince the Americans that they should accept a Palestinian state?

['Arafat] They have begun to understand, in accordance with what President Bush said recently, that it is essential to end Israeli occupation; and that is a very positive evolution. They also accept the international peace conference. That's also a change.

[Wojna] You have become president. Where will your seat be? Where will the government be?

['Arafat] It makes no difference whether I am 1 km or a 1,000 km from the homeland. In either case, it is very far. [end recording]

Egypt

Abu Ghazalah Replaced as Defense Minister

NC1504103789 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1025 GMT 15 Apr 89

[Text] Cairo, 15 Apr (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak today issued a presidential decree appointing Field Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah as assistant to the president.

President Mubarak also issued a presidential decree appointing Major General Yusuf Sabri Abu Talib [formerly governor of Cairo] as minister of defense and war production.

Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah and Yusuf Sabri Abu Talib both took the constitutional oath before the president at the Presidential Headquarters in Heliopolis.

Accorded Al-Jumhuriyah Medal

NC1504104289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1033 GMT 15 Apr 89

[Text] Cairo, 15 apr (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has decided to decorate Field Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah with the Al-Jumhuriyah [republic] Medal in apprecition of his efforts and his services to the homeland.

Sidqi on Appointment

NC1504130189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1241 GMT 15 Apr 89

[Text] Cairo, 15 Apr (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi has commented on Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah's appointment as assistant to the president by saying "President Husni Mubarak needs someone beside him to assist him in carrying out the tremendous tasks which he shoulders and confronts."

In a statement to reporters following his meeting with President Mubarak today, Dr Sidqi said he does not believe there will be any other ministerial changes now.

Dr 'Atif Sidqi added in his statement that it has not yet been determined who will succeed Mahmud al-Sharif as governor of Al-Sharqiyah. Al-Sharif has been appointed governor of Cairo.

He pointed out that this will require very limited changes among the governors in the next few weeks.

New Defense Minister Outlined

NC1504122489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1206 GMT 15 Apr 89

[Text] Cairo, 15 Apr (MENA)—Yusuf Sabri Abu Talib graduated from the Military College in 1948. Born on 24 May 1929, Abu Talib pursued a military career and was a commander of the Artillery Corps during the October 1973 war.

Abu Talib was appointed assistant to the defense minister in 1980. He was governor of Sinai between 1980 and 1982. From 1982 to 1983 he was appointed minister of popular development. He became governor of Cairo in 1983 and remained in this post until today. Abu Talib is married and has three children, a boy and two girls.

Mubarak Receives Army Chief of Staff

NC1504122289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1205 GMT 15 Apr 89

[Text] Cairo, 15 Apr (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Lieutenant General Safiy al-Din Abu Shinaf, chief of staff of the Armed Forces, at the Presidential Offices in Heliopolis today.

'Arafat Stops Over in Cairo Enroute to Tunis

NC1604112889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1010 GMT 16 Apr 89

[Text] Cairo, 16 Apr (MENA)—Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine, stopped over at Cairo International Airport early this morning. 'Arafat, who had been in Amman, stayed for 4 hours at the airport and then left for Tunis to attend the special seminar which will be held there in tribute to the late Palestinian leader Khalil al-Wazir, Alias Abu Jihad.

Several Palestinian officials met with 'Arafat and then bade him farewell at the airport. Among them were Muhammad Subayh, Palestine National Council secretary; Sa'id Kamal, PLO representative in Cairo; and Zuhdi al-Qudrah, PLO charge d'affaires and Fatah representative in Cairo.

Received in Cairo

NC1504161189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1532 GMT 15 Apr 89

[Text] Cairo, 15 Apr (MENA)—Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine, and his accompanying delegation arrived in Cairo from Baghdad today.

Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi, 'Abd al-Hadi Qandil, minister of petroleum and mineral resources, and members of the PLO office in Cairo received 'Arafat at the airport.

Talks With Mubarak

NC1504162589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1605 GMT 15 Apr 89

[Text] Cairo, 15 Apr (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak held a private round of talks with Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine, at the presidential offices this evening.

The two leaders are due to resume their discussions later this evening during an iftar [fast-breaking meal eaten during ramadan] banquet which President Mubarak will host for 'Arafat.

Holds News Conference

NC1504190589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1820 GMT 15 Apr 89

[Text] Cairo, 15 Apr (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak and Yasir 'Arafat, president of the Palestinian state, held a news conference this evening following the 2-hour round of talks which they held during a working fast-breaking dinner at the Presidential Palace.

At the beginning of the news conference, 'Arafat answered a question on the PLO's viewpoint on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's proposals to hold elections in the occupied West bank and Gaza strip. 'Arafat said: Proceeding from our democratic base, I welcome any elections in the ranks of the Palestinian people, but we say no to elections under occupation.

'Arafat added: The elections could be held when the Israeli occupation ends and Israel withdraws under the aegis of the United Nations, like in Namibia where elections will be held after the Pretoria government's troops have pulled out. 'Arafat added: I ask the United States: Why can the same rule not apply in the Palestinian territories?

President Mubarak was then asked whether Egypt will play a role in bringing the Palestinian and Israeli views closer. He said: Naturally. Our greatest concern is to solve the Palestinian problem, and I can say that 99 percent, if not 100 percent, of the talks I have held in the United States centered on the Palestinian issue. He added: The objective of all these efforts is to achieve justice and peace. I have previously stated to the Palestinian, Israeli, and Arab peoples in the region that peace deserves many concessions.

President Mubarak then said: As much as the Arab people need peace, the Israeli people likewise need it. We all need peace. Once peace is established, we will all cooperate. Therefore, we must all exert enormous efforts to bridge the gap between the two parties' views so that we can create a favorable atmosphere which will serve the interests of all the peoples in the region.

In response to a question on whether the situation requires coordination between the PLO and Jordan in the coming hours, President Mubarak said: Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] will be meeting with His Majesty King Husayn, perhaps tomorrow, in a European capital. It is necessary for them to meet to coordinate their views. The president noted that coordination and consultation between His Majesty King Husayn and Abu 'Ammar is a continuing process. He added that this coordination sometime takes the form of a bilateral or a tripartite meeting.

In answer to a question on whether there are differences between the PLO and Jordan, President Mubarak said: I believe you heard the remarks by His Majesty King Husayn in Amman, as you heard my remarks. When King Husayn was asked if he agrees with President Mubarak, his majesty said that there are no differnces. The same applies to the king's relationship with 'Arafat.

Answering the same question, 'Arafat said: I am sure you heard my statement on this subject during the news conference I held in Baghdad yesterday. I wished His Majesty King Husayn every success for his visit to the United States, so that he can successfully deal with the effects of Shamir's efforts there.

President Muabrak was asked about Egypt's view on the holding of elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, whether this view is completely identical to that of the PLO, or whether there are some differences. He stated: Palestinians possess rights. We are helping them to achieve their rights and we are helping the two parties to attain peace. As for the elections, I have previously stated that we approve of whatever the PLO approves of.

At the end of the news conference, 'Arafat said: We are concerned about another issue; namely, peace in Lebanon.

Commenting on 'Arafat's remark about Lebanon, President Mubarak declared: What is happening in Lebanon is another issue. All foreign forces must leave Lebanon in order for peace to be restored. Without the departure of the foreign forces present there I do not believe peace will be established in Lebanon.

PNC Official on 'Arafat Visit

NC1604152189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1325 GMT 16 Apr 89

[Text] Cairo, 16 Apr (MENA)—Muhammad Subayh, secretary of the Palestine National Council [PNC] has stated that the talks between President Husni Mubarak and Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, in Cairo yesterday were very important. They dealt with the need to adopt a unified Arab stand regarding the current proposals submitted by the Israeli leaders to hold elections in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip under Israeli occupation, he said.

In an exclusive statement to MENA today, Subayh added that it has been agreed to hold elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip after Israel withdraws from them and the Israeli Government's final position on the occupied territories has become known.

Subayh said that during their talks Mubarak and 'Arafat made a comprehensive assessment of the Arab position and the results of President Mubarak's visit to the United States. They also made an evaluation of the international situation and the escalating Israeli violence in the occupied territories.

Subayh added that during their discussions they telephoned Jordan's King Husayn. Agreement was reached that 'Arafat would visit Amman in order to demonstrate the unified Egyptian-Palestinian-Jordanian stance on the Palestinian issue in general.

The PNC secretary noted that it was necessary to inform King Husayn of the results of the talks being conducted with the United States in Tunisia, the PLO's position on the Israeli proposals, and the general situation in the occupied territories before the king begins his visit to the United States. The visit is due to start tomorrow, Monday.

Subayh affirmed that the stands of King Husayn and 'Arafat were identical during their talks in Amman.

'Arafat arrived in Cairo from Amman earlier today. He was accompanied by Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, who went with him on his visit to Amman. 'Arafat spent several hours in Cairo before leaving for Tunis.

Al-Fayyum Clash With Islamic Groups Viewed

JN1604210089 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 15 Apr 89 pp 1, 2

[By Ahmad Jubayli]

[Text] Al-Fayyum—Regrettable incidents occured between Islamic groups and the police in the township of Jarfis in the subdistrict of Sinnuris the day before yesterday. The clashes resulted in the injuring of a police lieutenant colonel, two soldiers, and some members of the Islamic groups. The police forces launched a campaign against the township of Jarfis, a stronghold of the Islamic groups, and attacked Al-Tawhid mosque. The members of the Islamic groups were compelled to flee to the roof of the mosque and threw bricks and explosives at the police. Colonel Muhammad Ghazi was hospitalized after he was wounded in his right hand. Two soldiers were also wounded.

The police responded by opening fire and throwing tear gas bombs. As a result, three houses near the mosque caught fire. The police arrested 20 persons accused of instigating demonstrations in the Al-Shuhada' mosque in Al-Fayyum. Sixteen of them were presented to the prosecution, including 'Abd al-'Aziz, who was iflicted with paralysis. The police also arrested Fadil Muhammad Abu al-'Abbas and Hasan Makkawi who carried 20 nail bombs and a bomb similar to one thrown at the 'Abd al-Hamid movie theater in the Qarun square in Al-Fayyum. Gasoline, nails, and medical cotton were also seized.

Muhammad Tawfiq, Ashraf 'Abd al-'Al, and Salah Muhammad, deputy prosecutors, began investigation under the supervision of lawyer Mahmud al-Sharshabi, who ordered that the defendants be sent back to jail. The police had ordered their detention.

The prosecutor decided to send an explosives expert to examine the items that were seized and summon the criminal laboratory to explore the cause of the fire. The general prosecutor in Al-Fayyum insisted on his position and refused to transfer Dr 'Umar 'Abd al-Rahman and those accused of rioting to prisons outside Al-Fayyum.

Deputy Prosecutors Mamduh Budayr and Hisham Sakran decided to remand Ramadan 'Uthman Sulayman, Salah al-Din Mutwalli, and Ibrahim 'Abd al-Tawwab in custody for 15 days to investigate the distribution of antigovernment publications seized on the Sinnuris train. They also decided to confiscate the publications with the prosecutor's knowledge.

Further on Arrests

NC1404151489 Paris AFP in English 1442 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Text] Cairo, April 14 (AFP)—A thousand Moslems assembled after Friday prayers in the fundamentalist stronghold of Asyut, Upper Egypt, to demand the release of the blind shaykh who heads the extremist Al-Jihad movement, police said.

Police encircled the mosque at Asyut, 300 kilometers (188 miles) south of Cairo, to prevent supporters of the Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd al-Rahman from demonstrating in the streets after Friday prayers, witnessess said.

The protesters shouted slogans demanding the release of the shaykh and blasting a government crack-down on Islamic fundamentalists. But they eventually dispersed without any arrests being made, police said.

Shaykh 'Umar was arrested April 7 in Al-Fayyum, an oasis some 100 kilometers (63 miles) southwest of Cairo, after worshippers emerged from one of his sermons and clashed with police.

The shaykh, who has been blind from birth, and nine of his partisans were ordered detained for two weeks following the unrest in Al-Fayyum, where 26 other people were also arrested.

Members of Al-Jihad, an Islamic fundamentalist movement, were convicted in connection with the 1981 assassination of Egyptian President Anwar al-Sadat.

On Friday, Egypt's semi-official press reported that police have arrested an additional 29 members of Al-Jihad in Al-Fayyum during the last few days.

Twenty-six of the 29 suspects were arrested when police raided "an underground explosives workshop" near Al-Fayyum, where 22 petrol-bombs were found, according to AL-AHRAM daily. One officer was hurt and a nearby house was set ablaze when the Islamic fundamentalists threw petrol-bombs at police during the raid.

Police arrested the other three suspects as they passed out tracts at the Al-Fayyum train station, the press reports said.

In other violence in Al-Fayyum, five people were hurt Wednesday when a grenade was thrown into a public square and another was thrown from a moving train at a movie theatre, according to the daily AL-AKHBAR.

Zaki Badr on Riots

JN1604202689 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 15 Apr 89 pp 1, 14

[By 'Abd al-Wahid 'Abd al-Qadir]

[Excerpts] Alexandria—Interior Minister Zaki Badr has announced that the day before yesterday, members of a communist cell with some members in Alexandria were arrested in the city of Al-Mansurah. The cell belongs to the so-called Egyptian Communist Party. They were caught in possession of leaflets inciting sedition, revolt, breach of the peace, sit ins, and demonstrations through professional unions, clubs, and organizations. The minister said that the security organs will firmly confront all who attempt to obstruct the movement and the economic reform.

During a 5-hour dialogue with professors and students of Alexandria University, the interior minister said that up to 11 April, the number of detainees in accordance with the emergency law was no more than 1,400. These include 1,119 criminal detainees in connection with public money cases, currency dealings, foodstuff profiteering, and drugs. There are 281 so-called political detainees, and these are religious extremists, communists, and religious sectarians. [passage omitted]

On the Al-Fayyum incidents, the interior minister said that after prayers on Friday [14 April], a group of extremists led by 'Umar 'Abd al-Rahman, leader of the extremists, staged a demonstration. Security forces tried to talk with him to end the demonstration and stop incitement, but he refused. The demonstrators were dispersed after they threw explosives and nail bombs with a view to causing the greatest possible human loss and after using firearms.

The result was that a district officer was hit by a bullet in the leg. Two soldiers and six extremists were also injured. The extremists were arrested and referred to public prosecution, which ordered their imprisonment and the release of those underage. The following day, a group of extremists, supporters of 'Umar 'Abd al-Rahman, boarded the local train in Al-Fayyum and threw bombs at innocent women, children, and men in streets. A number of women and children were wounded.

Sixteen extremists climbed the roof of a mosque and threw bombs at security officers. They were confronted and arrested with 12 nail bombs in their possession. About the rumors of tapping and bugging of citizens and officials, the interior minister said that nothing of the sort occurs and that tapping can only be done with the permission of the public prosecutor and in accordance with the law, which confronts those who try to attack Egypt and its people.

He said that the elements that spread rumors and create confusion through violence and extremism target the ruling regime. These elements are represented by the Muslim Brotherhood, communists, extremist groups, Nasirites, and Shiites, in addition to the opposition parties. [passage omitted]

Official Denies BBC Report

NC1504004789 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2310 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Text] Asyut, 14 Apr (MENA)—Major General Mahmud al-Fakhrani, public security director general of Asyut denied a BBC report tonight about a demonstration staged by more than a 1,000 people outside a mosque in Asyut today.

He said that this report is completely groundless and that there were no arrests in Asyut today as the radio reported. He added that Friday prayers were held today in all governorate mosques in a normal manner and the usual security measures were used to maintain order.

Mubarak Reportedly To Visit USSR This Year

JN1504075889 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0730 GMT 15 Apr 89

[Text] Doha, 15 Apr (WAKH)—Press reports said here today that diplomatic contacts are underway between Cairo and Moscow to prepare for a visit to the USSR Egyptian President Husni Mubarak will make during the 2d part of this year. The Qatari newspaper, AL-RAYAH, cited informed sources in Cairo as affirming that the Soviet leadership attaches great importance to this visit in light of the current important developments in the Egyptian-Soviet relations on the political and economic levels.

Israel Warned Against Attacking Iraq

JN1504183389 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 14 Apr 89 pp 1, 2

[Excerpt] Arab diplomatic circles in Cairo have stressed that Egypt has recently warned Israel against dealing a military blow to Iraq or its military installations. The

circles pointed out that during his recent visit to Washington, President Husni Mubarak asked the U.S. Administration to pressure Israel and to convince it of the seriousness of carrying out any military operation against Iraq. Egypt has also affirmed its support for Iraq in case any aggression is carried out against its territory. [passage omitted]

Dismay Over Nahhalin 'Massacre' Relayed

NC1604064389 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0520 GMT 16 Apr 89

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Egypt Reacts to the Israeli Massacre in the Palestinian Village of Nahhali," AL-AHRAM discloses that Egypt has informed the United States of its deep dismay and concern over the massacre in the Palestinian village of Nahhalin and over Israel's use of the police borders to perpetrate that massacre in which scores of people were killed or wounded.

According to AL-AHRAM, Egypt is conducting extensive political and diplomatic efforts in the U.S. capital and the United Nations, where, the paper says, efforts are under way to issue a statement condemning the Israeli massacre.

U.S. State Department Report Praised

NC1704090589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0745 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Text] Cairo, 17 Apr (MENA)—AL-AHRAM has praised the report issued by the U.S. State Department absolving the PLO of the charge of terrorism.

In its editorial today, 17 April, AL-AHRAM says that the report is another positive addition to the list of courageous stands which Washington has taken. Washington has taken the correct stand without being affected by affiliation to any party. This is evidence that the George Bush administration is reviving U.S. political principles and insists on abiding by them regardless of how they conflict with the moods of allies and friends.

The paper stresses that the report's timing in relation to the Bethlehem massacare—when the Israeli border guards, known for their ferocity, attacked the houses of unarmed citiziens—has diverted attention from the injured party, the PLO, to the real perpetrator who has been caught red-handed committing terrorism.

AL-AHRAM adds: The report also comes in the wake of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's visit to Washington. It is thus a fatal blow to Shamir's desperate attempts for many years only to label the PLO a terrorist organization but also to cause non-Arab parties to ignore and boycott the PLO so that the occupation goes on and Israeli tyranny can continue to repress the people in the occupied territories as it likes.

The paper notes that the report proves that the intifadah [uprising] is also innocent of the terrorism charge. It proves that the actions of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories constitute civil disobedience and collective rebellion through which individuals can express their views by attacking the symbols of occupation with their stones and fire bombs. It adds that this definition is closer to the PLO definition, which declares these actions to be acts of legitimate resistance that have nothing to do with terrorism. This is a painful blow to Shamir.

The paper also refers to the U.S. report's definition of terrorism as "an action that is premeditated and is carried out by secret groups and organizations against civilian and nonmilitary targets to draw attention to political aims." It says that this definition can also be applied to regimes and governments that are, in fact, practicing the unblanaced terrorism of occupation for political purposes against civilian targets and human bodies.

Libya

Paper Says Al-Qadhdhafi Helped Pan Am Bombers

LD1704124789 London THE SUNDAY TELEGRAPH in English 16 Apr 89 p 3

[From the "News Round-Up:" "Al-Qadhdhafi Helped Pan Am Bombers"]

[Text] The terror network responsible for the murder of 270 people by blowing up the Pan Am jumbo jet over Lockerbie last December was conceived early last year in Libya, according to United States intelligence sources, write David Blundy and Con Coughlin.

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi chaired a meeting in Tripoli between the radical Palestinian Group PFLP-GC [Populor Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command] and the Iranian Revolutionary Guards.

The object, according to intelligence officials who tracked and monitored the meeting, was to plot "dirty deeds." The co-ordination of operations was discussed, specifically in Lebanon but also against US American [as published] targets anywhere in the world.

Link to Bombers Denied

LD1604171889 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1555 GMT 16 Apr 89

[Text] Tripoli, 16 Apr (JANA)—The JANA political editor commented on an item published in the London-based newspaper THE SUNDAY TELEGRAPH today which quotes U.S. intelligence sources as saying that the great Jamahiriyah had a role in the downing of the U.S. aircraft last December.

The editor says that the great Jamahiriyah has repeatedly condemned terrorism in general and what happened to the stricken American aircraft in particular. What was

published by this newspaper is but part of a disinformation campaign carried out by Zionist and imperialist circles hostile to the great Jamahiriyah and its civilizational and liberationist orientations.

The editor adds that these false allegations are totally groundless, these circles attempt to create such allegations from time to time to harm the great Jamahiriyah and its principled stands [word indistinct]. The world is witness to its sincerety and its concern for the dignity and freedom of man; the great Al-Fatih revolution came about for the sake of the liberation of man and the victory of his just causes.

JANA: Baker Comments on Planes 'Strange'

LD1504164689 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1555 GMT 15 Apr 89

[Text] Tripoli, 15 Apr (JANA)—JANA's political editor commented on statements made by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in a speech before the society of U.S. newspaper editors, in which he criticized the great Jamahiriyah's recent acquisition of planes, and said:

We find it strange for such a statement to be made. Baker condemns the Jamahiriyah's acquisition of equipment needed for its right to self-defence; yet how can he justify his government supplying the Zionist enemy with an arsenal of advanced military equipment and weapons which it uses to deal blows to the Palestinian Arab people and destabilize the region by continuously threatening to attack countries of the region.

The Jamahiriyah has confirmed beyond doubt its clear stand and rejection of terrorism in all its forms. World public opinion is convinced and fully realizes the attitudes of the great Jamahiriyah and is no longer deceived by those fabricated accusations spread by hostile forces, whether through statements or tainted reports.

3d Anniversary of American 'Aggression' Marked

NC1404201389 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1130 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Text] The Libyan Arab people and all the world's free people are marking today, 14 April, as the third anniversary of the courageous confrontation of the abortive, barbaric, American-Atlantic aggression against the bastion of freedom and liberation, the great Jamahiriyah.

On this day in 1986, the Libyan people recorded a glorious new page in history with their decisive victory over the forces of evil and terrorism. They confronted, with rare courage, the American-Atlantic aggression in which the U.S. Administration used more than 170 aircraft. The aircraft flew 5400 miles in 14 hours and were refueled four times in flight. NATO satellites were also used.

The U.S. Administration used the most modern bombers and installed electronic spying, monitoring, and jamming devices in more than one country in order to assassinate the leader of the revolution. This is the first incident of its kind in modern history.

For this operation, the U.S. Administration mobilized the Armed Forces general staff, the intelligence director and his senior aides, the National Security Council head, and the military commanders.

They held intensive meetings with senior NATO military advisers in order to carry out the plot against Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, commander of the revolution, hope for unity of the Arab nation, leader of the world revolution, symbol of the new Islamic awakening and escalating African revolution, dream of the world's weak and oppressed in the world, creator of the people's authority, and achiever of the era of the masses.

Sudan

Armed Forces Statement on Chad Border Fighting

EA1404170789 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] The General Command of the Armed Forces has issued the following statement:

One: Following the recent political and military developments in fraternal Chad, large numbers of rebel soldiers managed to flee (?toward) [words indistinct] and Armankul areas, in Sudanese territory north of Al-Junaynah.

Two: The Chadian Armed Forces pursued these men and a clash occurred on the border strip. The fighting spilled over into some Sudanese villages and this created a certain degree of instability in those areas.

Three: The Sudanese Armed Forces acted decisively to contain the situation. They warned the two conflicting forces to immediately leave Sudanese territory, whereupon both sides retreated back into Chadian territory.

Four: To guard against any subsequent developments, the command sent urgent combat reinforcements to the Darfur area to boost the Armed Forces' capacity to deal with the situation.

Five: The General Command would like to confirm that it is in full control of the situation and that it is watching developments in order to defend the homeland (?decisively) and resolutely. With God's help we will succeed.

Foreign Ministry on Forces

LD1404215989 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Text] Sayyid Ahmad al-Husayn, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, says the Foreign Ministry is patiently studying the events on the country's western border in the light of all the reports and information it has received. This follows the arrival at the Sudanese border of Chadian forces led by the leader of the abortive coup in Chad.

His excellency said Sudan intended to deal with the situation in a manner that maintains the country's security and the integrity of Sudanese territory. He also stressed Sudan had no wish to interfere in Chad's internal affairs.

The Sudanese authorities established contacts with the Chadian military force which arrived at the border. During these contacts Hassane Djamous, the commander of this force, said his men had no aggressive intention towards Sudan.

Demonstrators Urge Implementation of Shari'ah

NC1504175189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1730 GMT 15 Apr 89

[Text] Khartoum, 15 Apr (MENA)—Islamic groups, followers of the National Islamic Front, members of student unions at Khartoum and Omdurman Universities, and some secondary schools took part in sporadic demonstrations in the Sudanese capital today.

The demonstrators demanded the implementation of Islamic shari'ah and a reconsideration of the existing criminal law. The Sudanese Constituent Assembly had postponed consideration of this issue until a constitutional conference for peace is held.

1 Dead in 15 Apr Khartoum Rally

LD1604223489 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Apr 89

[Text] We have just received the following statement from the commissioner of the national capital: A number of political quarters have been expressing their opinions over the past few days by calling for peaceful marches and political rallies, in spite of the fact that the national capital is a security emergency area under the emergency regulations. In the context of the democratic system, the concerned organs have continued to monitor such marches and demonstrations and also to protect them so as to deepen these concepts.

During these marches and demonstrations, which started on the morning of Monday 9 April and continued up to today, lawless and disorderly elements emerged as a result of provocations between the demonstrators and some citizens. These led to serious confrontations last night, with the result that there were casualties in the south Khartoum area. Firearms and steel were used in some cases, resulting in the death of one citizen and the wounding of three others.

In this respect, the commission sees that enough time has been granted to the citizens to express their opinions. Therefore, it appeals to the citizens to respect the law and not to expose themselves to the dangers of differing opinions, so that the enemies of democracy are prevented from exploiting these demonstrations as a means of undermining law and order.

Bahrain

Visiting Indian Official Conveys Gandhi Message

JN1504123589 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1100 GMT 15 Apr 89

[Excerpt] Manama, 15 Apr (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman al- Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, has received a message from Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on relations between the two countries and ways to bolster them in all fields.

The message was delivered by Mr John Gonsalves, under secretary at the Indian Foreign Ministry, when the amir received him in Manama today in the presence of His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman al-Khalifah, the prime minister of Bahrain. [passage omitted]

Shaykh 'Isa Speaks on Domestic Issues

JN1504165489 Manama WAKH in English 1510 GMT 15 Apr 89

[Excerpts] Muscat, April 15 (GNA)—H.H. [His Highness] the Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman al-Khalifah affirmed that the GCC states have been able to attain harmony in views on the Council's issues and overcoming obstacles facing its approach.

In an interview with OMANI NEWS AGENCY released today, h.h. the amir spoke in praise about Bahraini-Omani relations which he described as deeply rooted. [passage omitted]

Regarding the internal situation of Bahrain, his highness said the island has made tremendous strides in laying down the foundation of basic development during the last 20 years, and added that now the focus is on diversifying the sources in the industrial development mainly in oil refinary, petrochemicals and mineral industries.

H.H. Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman al-Khalifah pointed out that Bahrain is encouraging private sector investment in order to help industries to meet the local and Gulf needs and for exporting abroad.

In addition to that, his highness said Bahrain is giving a special attention to agricultural development by expanding [words indistinct] through the usage of modern techniques.

Fisheries, which are considered as the most important sources of food and income for the sons of this region are also being given importance, h.h. the amir added.

He stressed that the development would have positive reflection on the standard of living of the people in Bahrain.

Turning to efforts exerted by the government of Bahrain to strengthen the distinguished banking position, h.h. the amir stressed that Bahrain and the other regional states in general surpassed the international economic slump and negative impact of the Iraq-Iran war.

"Bahrain is making firm steps strengthening further the trust if gained in the international financial and banking circles," h.h. the amir pointed out.

H.H. the amir said that Bahrain is a country enjoying stability and security and providing modern and advanced potentials as well as facilities that enabled it to play important role in the regional and international banking structure.

While expressing hope for attaining the desired economic prosperity in near future, h.h. the amir pointed out that the economic situation in Bahrian has started the flourishing march with good growth rates.

Kuwait

Minister Urges Arab League Meeting on Lebanon

LD1704131489 Kuwait KUNA in English 1138 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Text] Kuwait, April 17 (KUNA)—Kuwait's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad Monday called for convocation of an urgent Arab League Council's meeting to discuss the deteriorating situation in Lebanon.

Shaykh Sabah called on the League chief Chedli Klibi to conduct the necessary contacts concerning the holding of such a meeting in Tunis, urging the Arab states to intervene at once to stop the massacre in Lebanon.

Speaking to reporters, the chief diplomat said Kuwait has followed with concern the regrettable developments in Lebanon which is represented in the dangerous deterioration of the security situation there.

He added that he asked Klibi, during a phone call today, to learn opinions of the six-man committee members on the possibility of convening an urgent meeting at a ministerial level to discuss the situation in Lebanon, reach a ceasefire agreement and put an end to the crisis there.

The Arab League Committee had early Friday wound up the fifth stage of its mission which was represented in the talks it held here with the Lebanese front.

Shaykh Sabah concluded that the daily mass killing in Lebanon and worsening of situation there requires us to shoulder the national responsibilities toward the sisterly country Lebanon and take urgent measures to stop the massacre and back the Lebanese in their tribulation.

Officials Meet With Algerian Foreign Minister

LD1604125789 Kuwait KUNA in English 1152 GMT 16 Apr 89

[Text] Kuwait, April 16 (KUNA)—Algerian Foreign Minister Boualem Bessaieh Sunday arrived here from Baghdad on the fourth leg of his tour that has so far taken him to Syria, Jordan and Iraq.

Bessaieh and the delegation accompanying him were received on arrival by deputy premier and foreign minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, Foreign Undersecretary Sulayman Majed al-Shahin and the Algerian ambassador to Kuwait as well as other ranking foreign ministry officials.

An informed foreign ministry source told KUWAIT NEWS AGENCY that Shaykh Sabah held a long meeting with the Algerian minister at the airport during which he briefed him on the details of the two-day meeting of the Arab League committee on Lebanon held in Kuwait last Wednesday with members of the Lebanese front.

Bessaieh acquainted Shaykh Sabah on the objective of his latest visits to Damascus and Baghdad and the link between the visits and the Lebanese crisis.

The source added that the two sides expressed deep concern over comprehensive destruction caused by the arbitrary shelling between the conflicting parties in the Lebanese arena and the innocent victims of the fighting.

The meeting was attended by the undersecretary, the director of the Arab world administration at the Foreign Ministry 'Abd al-Hamid Sa'ud al-'Abd al-Razzaq, and the Algerian ambassador.

PDRY

Libyan Aid for Flood Victims Arrives in Aden

EA1304153489 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] The first consignment of Libyan relief aid arrived in Aden yesterday evening for those affected by the natural disaster which hit Democratic Yemen recently. The consignment consisted of medicines, blankets, and tents. These were received by brothers Ahmad Muhammad Ahmad, chairman of the relief aid reception committee, and Husayn Salih, director of the Libyan Arab Brotherhood Office in Aden.

Qatar

Indian Official Arrives on Visit 16 Apr

JN1604112589 Manama WAkh in Arabic 0900 GMT 16 Apr 89

[Text] Doha, 16 Apr (WAKH)—John Gonsalves, under secretary at the Indian Foreign Ministry, arrived in Doha this morning on a visit of several days to the State of Qatar.

The Indian official's visit is part of a tour of the region which has already taken him to the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain where he conveyed messages to their leaders from Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on bilateral relations and issues of common interest.

Conveys Gandhi Message

JN1604144289 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1130 GMT 16 Apr 89

[Text] Doha, 16 Apr (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad al- Thani, amir of the State of Qatar, has received a message from Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on the developments in the regional situation, matters of mutual interest, and ways to bolster and develop bilateral relations.

The message was conveyed to Shaykh Hamad ibn Suhaym al-Thani, under secretary of the Qatari Foreign Ministry, during a meeting this morning with John Gonsalves, under secretary at the Indian Foreign Ministry, who is currently visiting Qatar.

The meeting was attended by Indian charge d'affaires to Qatar S.B. Singh.

Amir Supports Venezuelan OPEC Summit Proposal

JN1604113589 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 16 Apr 89

[Text] Doha—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad al-Thani, amir of the State of Qatar, has affirmed that cooperation among the OPEC member states has and will continue to have a very positive effect producing an understanding of all that would serve the interests of the OPEC member states and enhance its status.

In a message to Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez, his highness the Qatari amir voiced his support for the Venezuelan president's idea of holding a summit of leaders of the OPEC member states to bring about an exchange of views on the latest developments in the international oil markets in general and OPEC's oil affairs in particular.

QNA said that His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad al-Thani also affirmed in his message to the Venezuelan president the importance of drawing up long-term strategic plans to ensure oil-price stability in a way that would serve the interests of OPEC members and raise the organization's prestige .

Algerian Foreign Minister Arrives 15 Apr

JN1504155189 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1520 GMT 15 Apr 89

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 15 Apr (INA)—Algerian Foreign Affairs Minister Boualem Bassaieh arrived in Baghdad today on a visit to Iraq.

In a statement to INA, Boualem Bassaieh said that he is carrying a brotherly message to President Saddam Husayn from his brother, President Chadli Bendjedid, which deals with relations between the two fraternal countries. [passage omitted]

Meets Tariq 'Aziz

JN1504182189 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1750 GMT 15 Apr 89

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Apr (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received Algerian Foreign Minister Boualem Bassaieh here tonight .

During the meeting, they discussed bilateral relations and means to bolster them in all fields. They also discussed Arab issues of mutual interest, particularly the situation in Lebanon and the Palestine question, in addition to the latest developments in the current negotiations between Iraq and Iran to achieve a comprehensive, just, and permanent peace between the two countries.

The meeting was attended by the Foreign Ministry undersecretary, the head of the Arab Department at the Foreign Ministry, and the Algerian ambassador in Baghdad.

AFP: Evacuation of Kurds Reportedly Stopped

NC1604103589 Paris AFP in English 0911 GMT 16 Apr 89

[Excerpt] Damascus, April 16 (AFP)—Iraq has called off the forced evacuation of 100,000 Kurds from northeast Iraq, but the decision was only a temporary "manoeuvre," a Kurdish opposition group said Sunday.

"Faced by the Kurd's attachment to their land and in an obvious bid to head off protests at home and abroad, Iraq has decided to freeze the evacuation of Qal'at Dizah, temporarily," the Democratic Party of Iraqi Kurdistan said here.

"This decision is just a pure and simple manoeuvre," spokesman 'Izz al-Din Brawri told AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE.

Mr. Braouri, whose party sided with Tehran during the Iran-Iraq war, said Saturday that Iraq had ordered the evacuation of 100,000 Kurdish residents of Qal'at Dizah by April 25 when the town and nearby villages were to be razed.

He urged the international community to act against what he termed an Iraqi "extermination campaign" against Iraqi Kurdistan, notably areas near the border with Iran. [passage omitted]

Cabinet To Set Up Team To Prepare Elections

TA1604124489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 16 Apr 89

[Text] The Cabinet is coming to an agreement on setting up an experts and not a ministerial team to prepare the elections in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip.

Our diplomatic correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that the committee will probably include personnel from the Defense and Justice Ministries and additional bodies related to the issue, and is likely to submit its recommendations to the Inner Cabinet.

During this morning's Cabinet meeting, the prime minister reviewed his political discussions in Washington and said that the process of elections will not be prolonged.

Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that the plan is basically positive, but will in fact be such only if preliminary negotiations are held with residents of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip in which it would be made clear that the elections are part of a comprehensive move. According to Rabin, the negotiations should be held before the elections in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip; this would calm the uprising.

Deputy Prime Minister David Levi and Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i criticized Shamir's election proposal. Minister Levi said that we ourselves are giving the PLO the role of representing the residents of the territories. Minister Moda'i said that the United States will only accept Israel's proposals if the PLO does.

Rabin on Cabinet Session

TA1604181889 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Apr 89

[Interview with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by political correspondent Shlomo Ganor after the weekly Cabinet session on 16 April, outside the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem—videorecorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] [Ganor] How do you view the prime minister's proposal for elections in the territories?

[Rabin] The partner with whom the process should begin will be elected in a process whose nature has not yet been clearly defined. I favor general political elections for a representation that will conduct negotiations with us.

Clearly, it is impossible to launch preparations for elections or election campaigns in a state of violence and terrorism. Thus, one should not come out and say that this is a precondition, because in any case the reality will be such. The moment there is agreement on the framework for elections for representatives of and by the residents of the territories, I believe calm will prevail anyhow.

[Ganor] Is there a chance that the prime minister's plan will be endorsed by the entire Cabinet?

[Rabin] I believe this approach, involving two stages and elections [as heard], will win a Cabinet majority, although naturally the Cabinet will have to make a formal decision on the matter. I am convinced the proposal will win a majority. Then, naturally following an exchange of views and coordination with the United States, it will be necessary to examine the measure of readiness for this on the Arab side.

At present, the ball is in the Arabs' court. Only they can foil a reasonable chance for the process to begin. In fact, this proposal offers the Palestinian inhabitants the beginning of the road, the first step, which no Arab state since 1947 ever offered the inhabitants of the territories when the West Bank to the east of Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip were in Arab hands, namely between 1949 and 1967.

[Ganor] Mr Defense Minister, can we hear your opinion on the incident in Nahhalin?

[Rabin] I toured the region between Bethlehem and Hebron in the middle of last week. As a result of reasons which I will not specify, IDF [Israel Defense Forces] activity has lessened somewhat to occasional entry into villages, even if they are located 3 or 4 km away from major traffic routes. The facts have shown us that as a result of the lower incidence of entry into these villages, the locals occasionally organize and sometimes go beyond the acceptable level, leading the locals—in this case in Nahhalin—to throw rocks at Israeli military vehicles traveling along the Jerusalem-Bethlehem-Hebron highway.

In light of this, a decision was made, and justifiably so, to enter the village to make sure that the locals do not feel they can freely organize to sabotage the main axes. The Border Police forms part of the units operating under IDF supervision in the territories. Border policemen are brothers in arms to the IDF troops. The partnership between the Border Police and the IDF is complete.

If it were not for the violent opposition to the Border Police's entry into the village, there would have been no need to employ the means the Border Police used. Let me point out that, among the individuals who were seriously injured, and mainly among the dead—a fact that we all regret—there was no woman or child. All four casualties were above the age of 18. Two of them were known to us as active participants in violent and illegal activity.

Peres on Election Proposals

TA1604191589 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Apr 89

[Interview with Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres by Yoni Ben-Menahem, in Peres' office on 16 April—videorecorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] [Peres, picked up in midsentence] ...I do not know what they will accept, I can only say what I believe they

should accept. The very implementation of these elections is, in my opinion, at this stage the important historical opportunity to break the deadlock and end the state of violence. It offers a chance for free negotiations between equal sides, and I sincerely hope the Palestinian residents will not miss such an opportunity.

[Ben-Menahem] What kind of elections do you think should be held: political or municipal?

[Peres] Obviously they should be political elections. The issue is a political one. We are discussing political representation, the future of the territories. We are not talking about administering municipal or community life.

[Ben-Menahem] What about international supervision, or supervision by observers or supervisors?

[Peres] I do not think supervision is required. Israel seriously intends to hold free, fair, and open elections. That is why observers are welcome. We have nothing to hide. There is no need to supervise us, and we have no need to conceal anything.

[Ben-Menahem] What are your opinions on the participation of East Jerusalem residents in these elections?

[Peres] Since we are not discussing administration, but rather a large-scale plebiscite, I would certainly allow the residents of East Jerusalem to express their views, not necessarily inside Jerusalem itself. This can be done outside the city.

[Ben-Menahem] What should be the size of the delegation to be nominated in these elections?

[Peres] Listen, I know that the smaller a government is the better it functions. I believe this is also true for a delegation. The smaller the delegation, the greater its efficiency.

[Ben-Menahem] But what should the minimum size of the delegation be? How many delegates do you expect?

[Peres] I would say 10 or 12, perhaps 14 members.

[Ben-Menahem] Mr Peres, do you feel there should be a connection between the interim accords and any final agreement on the territories?

[Peres] Of course, there must be such a connection from the standpoint of timetables, for instance how much time should elapse before the final agreement goes into force. One cannot live under interim accords indefinitely. I estimate that basing the negotiations on UN Resolutions 242 and 338 already implies a permanent arrangement.

[Ben-Menahem] Mr Peres, what influence can elections in the territories have on the uprising?

[Peres] It must be either stones or ballots. They really do not go together. I believe that when the ballot boxes are stationed, perhaps even before, the territories will calm down.

[Ben-Menahem] Do you believe that the uprising will totally cease the minute the delegation is chosen?

[Peres] I can only make logical assessments, I cannot guess. Logic dictates that if one agrees to elections, it stands to reason that one must stop any violent confrontation.

[Ben-Menahem] Do you believe the PLO will give the residents in the territories the go-ahead signal to participate in these elections?

[Peres] I do not know. The PLO has three options, and it will be interesting to see which of them it will choose. It can decide to permit the elections, it can decide to forbid them, or it can decide not to decide. My estimate is that if the PLO chooses not to decide, the Palestinians in the territories will go to vote.

[Ben-Menahem] Mr Peres, do you intend to meet Palestinian notables from the territories in the near future to try and promote the election proposal?

[Peres] If necessary, yes. If I am asked to do so I will agree.

[Ben-Menahem] Thank you.

Shamir Against East Jerusalem Participation

TA1704162089 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Report by Yaron Kulas]

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir today briefed the members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee on his political plan. He did not use the term political elections, but hinted at the type of elections proposed for the territories.

[Begin Shamir recording] The intention is to locate, from among those elected, representatives for negotiations on settling the dispute between us and the Arab residents of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. [end recording]

Should the elected representatives wish to deal with issues outside the designated course, such as forming a Palestinian state, for example, we will not enable them to do so, Shamir said. The prime minister wants to open negotiations on the final arrangement only after 3 years of interim arrangements have elapsed.

Shamir told committee members that he would object to the participation of residents of East Jerusalem in these elections, but that this is one of the details that will be

formulated later. The prime minister opposes the positioning of international observers for the elections and dismisses suggestions to change Israel Defense Forces [IDF] deployment in the territories.

[Begin Shamir recording] IDF deployment is needed to maintain order. Order is needed, among other things, to make the elections possible. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Upon the conclusion of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee meeting, we asked the prime minister to comment on the opposition to his political plan expressed within his party. Their opposition, says Shamir, is not without grounds.

[Begin Shamir recording] There are risks. Every plan contains risks, a peace plan even more so. It is up to us, however, to determine to what extent we overcome these risks and threats, and to implement the plan the way we want and believe is best. [end recording]

Palestinians Formulate Counterproposal to Plan

TA1404172489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Text] A group of Palestinian figures in Judaea and Samaria has formulated a plan designed as a counterproposal to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's initiative. The plan has been submitted to the Egyptian Foreign Ministry and will shortly be presented to PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat.

The plan proposes four stages for talks with Israel: In the first stage, a multinational force would supervise the withdrawal of Israel Defense Forces [IDF] troops from large populated centers in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. According to the plan, the IDF would remain on the outskirts of these large centers.

In the second stage, elections would be held under international supervision; these would not choose representatives to negotiations with Israel, but rather representatives from the territories to the PLO's parliament-in-exile.

In the third stage, 'Arafat would appoint five of these representatives to hold negotiations with Israel for an interim period, which would last 2 years, at the end of which an international conference would be convened.

In the last stage, negotiations would be conducted between Israel and the PLO in the framework of an international conference on the final status of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza.

One of the authors of the plan has said that if 'Arafat does not approve it, the plan will be shelved.

PLO's Sha'th Confirms Peres, Weizman Contacts

TA1604071389 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 16 Apr 89 pp 1, 8

[Report on an interview with Nabil Sha'th, chairman of the Political Committee of the Palestine National Council, by New York-based correspondent Walter Ruby; in New York on 14 April]

[Text] A high-ranking PLO official said here Friday that the present stand of the U.S. on the Middle East conflict is "at least verbally" closer to the PLO than to Israel, and that the "real intent" of the U.S. in Middle East negotiations "shows quite a lot of promise" for the Palestinians.

The official, Nabil Sha'th, chairman of the Political Committee of the Palestine National Council, also said he beleives U.S. oposition to a Palestinian state is not "deep", but rather a rhetorical position maintained by the U.S. "so as not to terrify the Israelis."

In a wide-ranging interview with THE JERUSALEM POST, Sha'th affirmed that Finance Minister Shim'on Peres has been in contact with the PLO "through other people", and that Minister without Portfolio 'Ezer Weizman unsuccessfully sought a meeting with PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat during a recent visit to Cairo.

Sha'th also conceded that Prime Minister Shamir had "gained some time" through his proposal for elections in the West Bank, but expressed concern that Shamir might use the period to "try to crush the intifadah [uprising]."

In Washington on Thursday, Sha'th said he saw "encouraging signs—although very limited" in the Shamir proposal, which earlier had been uncategorically rejected by the PLO.

Sha'th cited Shamir's expressed willingness to abide by the results of the elections even if PLO people win; his willingness to hold elections before autonomy, and not after it—as Camp David requires; and his stated intention to discuss end results of the process after autonomy has been instituted.

But Sha'th cautioned that Shamir is "still way behind" in his refusal to acknowledge the necessity of talking to the PLO, and said that while Shamir's proposal "says new things, it is not a basis for negotiations."

Sha'th also insisted that "There is not any change in the PLO's position about elections;" that the organization was still insisting that elections be held "under freedom from occupation, under international guarantees, and as part of a permanent settlement."

However, Sha'th refused to state explicitly that the PLO is insisting that all Israeli troops leave the territories before elections take place, stressing that such issues must be resolved in negotiations.

Sha'th said the PLO leadership will take no further steps on the Shamir proposal until after hearing a report on the subject from U.S. Ambassador to Tunisia Robert Pelletreau, presumably within the next 10 days.

Sha'th's comments come on the heels of a WASHINGTON POST report that West Bank Palestinians have urged 'Arafat to accept the Israeli election plan, to be followed by a two-year confidence-building period—provided that the U.S. give the PLO assurances in writing that negotiations during that period would lead to Palestinian self-determination.

According to the article, Reuven Merhav, director-general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, will discuss the idea with Egyptian officials in Cairo this weekend.

Sha'th spoke to THE JERUSALEM POST after meeting with a group of American Jewish leaders, intellectuals and businessmen. Among those participating in the meeting were several pro-Shamir figures who pressed Sha'th to end the intifadah.

Asked about his position on a demilitarized Palestinian state, Sha'th responded that a Palestinian state with at least some armaments would actually be useful to Israel, because it could help prevent armed attacks against Israeli territory.

Sources Deny Rabin Message to 'Arafat

TA1704115489 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 17 Apr 89 p 2

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Excerpt] Circles close to Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin deny that the minister relayed a message to 'Arafat through Knesset Member [MK] 'Abd al-Wahab Darawshah, who left for Cairo last Friday.

Our correspondent has learned that last Wednesday Rabin held a meeting with Darawshah in his Knesset offices, and that he gave Darawshah an oral message for PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat. The message pertains to his political plan and to the idea of elections in the territories.

The defense minister's bureau refused to give our correspondent details of Rabin's conversation with Darawshah, saying that details of private talks are not usually divulged.

Circles close to Minister Rabin have said, however, that the conversation took place at the Knesset cafeteria and lasted about 7 minutes. MK Darawshah questioned Minister Rabin about his plan. The minister revealed details of his plan, but there was no request or intention to relay messages to 'Arafat through MK Darawshah. [passage omitted]

King Husayn Views Shamir Election Plan

TA1704143089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Text] This morning Jordan's King Husayn conferred in Paris with President Mitterrand; the two discussed the Middle East issue.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the king told our correspondent Gid'on Kouts that Prime Minister Shamir's plan for elections in the territories is detached from what is actually happening, and leaves the major questions unanswered. Husayn stressed, however, that it is not for him to reject or accept the plan.

King Husayn is now on his way to meet President George Bush in Washington.

New Weapons To Disperse Demonstrators Exhibited

TA1604095889 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 16 Apr 89 p 3

[Report by Alex Fishman]

[Text] A series of new measures to disperse demonstrations were presented at the end of last week at a gathering on routine security measures held at the Southern Command and attended by officers who serve in that sector. Among the measures on display was a gas rocket operated from an Israel Defense Forces [IDF] patrol vehicle.

Up to now, in clashes with groups of demonstrators and in other disturbances, soldiers on patrol left their vehicles, moved toward the rioters, and fired from a personal rifle or hurled a gas grenade.

The Ordnance Corps' new measure enables the firing of gas rockets from the patrol vehicle, eliminating the need for the soldiers to come close to the center of the disturbance.

The participants also viewed a light aircraft that will regularly serve forces active in the field. The plane will circle over the forces and direct them to the hub of disturbances. The officers were also shown other weapons that are still in the planning and development stage.

The convention was held with the participation of the commander of the Southern Command, the head of the Civil Administration, and the military commander of the Gaza Strip.

Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, the commander of the Southern Command, said the techniques used to put down disturbances must comprise a combination of determination on the one hand and sensitivity to the population on the other.

Shomron Visits Nahhalin, Defends Border Police

TA1604165189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 16 Apr 89

[Text] Lieutenant General Dan Shomron, chief of the general staff, today visited the village of Nahhalin. He was briefed there by soldiers on last weekend's events in which four local residents were killed.

In an interview with our correspondent Karmela Menashe, the chief of staff said that the shooting and the conduct of the Border Police were first and foremost the result of the violent activity against them, and that the casualties and fatalities were the outcome of this violence. Gen Shomron added that the border policemen are doing a very good job, but that they can err just like army soldiers.

He further said that only an investigation can determine whether measures against individuals need to be taken. He noted, at the same time, that the new policy of dispatching Border Police companies into Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip will continue and that the appropriate lessons from last week's event will be learned.

Our correspondent reports that the chief of staff met with the village mukhtar, who complained to him of the border policemen's extreme brutality. Gen Shomron said that, on the day of the incident last week, the village residents described a picture of violence that was much harsher than warranted by the real situation.

Goren Visits Nahhalin

TA1504124189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 15 Apr 89

[Text] Shmu'el Goren, the coordinator of government activities in the territories, today visited the village of Nahhalin. Goren promised village notables that they will receive the results of the investigation into the circumstances of the incident that took place in the village on Thursday.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that Mr Goren acceded to the residents' requests for permission to visit villagers hospitalized in Bethlehem and Jerusalem, in spite of the curfew on the village. He also promised villagers that the mosques' loudspeakers would be returned. The loudspeakers were confiscated after being used to incite the populace.

The notables vowed to do their best to prevent future riots.

Further on Incidents, Casualties in Territories

Janin Boy Dies of Wounds

TA1404190889 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1815 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Excerpts] A 12-year-old boy from Janin died of his wounds today at Rambam Hospital in Haifa. He had been wounded by a bullet a few days ago.

The IDF spokesman has reported that two people were slightly wounded today in clashes in Bani Suhaylah in the southern part of the Gaza Strip. Arab sources reported 12 people wounded by gunfire: 5 in Gaza and 7 in the 'Askar refugee camp near Nabulus.

Our correspondent Victor Nahmias reports that Arab dignitaries and national institutions in the territories today called on the UN secretary general to send UN troops to protect the civilian population until a political solution is found. This call came in the wake of yesterday's bloody incidents in the village of Nahhalin. [passage omitted]

The entire Bethlehem area was generally quiet today, except for the village of Al-Khidr near the Bethlehem-Hebron highway where stone barriers were erected and youngsters threw stones. Israeli army and Border Police troops dispersed the rioters, but no casualties were reported.

Curfew Imposed on Gaza Strip

TA1504194789 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 15 Apr 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Our correspondent Victor Nahmias reports that a general curfew has been imposed on the Gaza Strip as of now until further notice.

Curfews have also been clamped on the Al-Duhayshah refugee camp as well as on most cities in Samaria and refugee camps in Judaea and Samaria. The curfew is one of the measures imposed by the Israeli army to preclude riots tomorrow, the first anniversary of the assassination in Tunis of 'Arafat's aide Khalil al-Wazir, alias Abu Jihad.

Nabulus Youth Killed by IDF

TA1404201189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Text] An 18-year-old youngster was killed this evening in Nabulus by Israeli army gunfire.

Quoting official military sources, our correspondent Arye Gus reports that a violent clash erupted when soldiers on foot patrol were attacked with boulders and rocks in the neighborhood of Rafidiyah. The youngster was shot and killed in this clash.

West Bank Curfews Imposed

TA1504065489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 15 Apr 89

[Text] The Israel Defense Forces have imposed a curfew on most towns and on all the refugee camps in Samaria. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that this step is designed to prevent disturbances tomorrow, which will mark the 1st anniversary of the murder of Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], who was 'Arafat's former deputy, in Tunis.

A curfew was clamped on Nabulus, Tulkarm, and Janin, and on the refugee camps near Bethlehem, Nabulus, Ramallah, and 'Anabta.

Al-Duhayshah Man Killed

TA1504161589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 15 Apr 89

[Text] Inhabitants of Al-Duhayshah claim that 23-year-old Ahmad Muhammad Karaka was killed today in a clash between local youngsters and soldiers in the refugee camp. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the Israeli army is looking into the report.

West Bank Boy Killed

TA1604144489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 16 Apr 89

[Text] A 10-year-old boy was struck by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] gunfire today in the village of Sammu', in the Hebron hills. The boy was pronounced dead on arrival at the hospital.

Military sources told our correspondent Arye Gus that the boy was wounded, snatched away by his family, and subsequently died due to loss of blood. The sources assert that the boy was only brought to the hospital after he was already dead. The boy's family claims that the soldiers delayed his transfer to the hospital.

The boy was injured during a violent confrontation that took place in the village this morning between IDF soldiers and dozens of masked youths.

Another youth was wounded today in the Al-Duhayshah refugee camp during a clash with IDF soldiers.

3 Killed on 'Day of Rage'

TA1604175589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 16 Apr 89

[Report by Arye Gus]

[Excerpts] The general curfew in the Gaza Strip and the curfews in Judaea and Samaria towns and refugee camps did not prevent incidents and confrontations with the security forces. The Unified National Command of the Uprising called on the residents to mark the anniversary of Abu Jihad's [Khalil al-Wazir] death with a day of rage.

The result is two dead, and a boy who was wounded and later died from loss of blood in the village of Sammu'. Muhammad Sulayman Rubay'i, 10, was wounded in the process of a violent confrontation in this southern village. Sources in the village report four wounded by Israel Defense Forces [IDF] gunfire and several injured by rubber bullets. [passage omitted]

The second fatality occurred in the curfew-bound village of Al-Duhayshah. A 14-year-old youth died after he was shot in the back with a bullet. The IDF is investigating the circumstances of the incident.

The third death occurred in Khan Yunus in the Gaza Strip. A man, who was wanted by the security forces, wielded a knife at IDF soldiers who arrived at his home to detain him. After warning the man and firing into the air, the soldiers shot and killed him.

Sources in other parts of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip report casualties in clashes with soldiers. Numerous pictures of Abu Jihad were drawn and put up during the night. On the eve of the day of rage declared for today, the Abu Jihad units—groups of youths probably associated with the strike forces—also stepped up their activity.

Firebomb Thrown in West Bank

TA1604205089 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 2030 GMT 16 Apr 89

[Text] A Molotov cocktail was thrown tonight at an Israeli vehicle passing through Qalqilyah District village of Al-Funduq. No damage was caused and there were no casualties. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] launched searches after the perpetrators.

Our correspondent 'Ido Shargil reports that there were disturbances tonight in the village in 'Azzun, also situated in the outskirts of Qalqilyah. Jewish residents who passed by entered the village and spoke with the local notables concerning the stone-throwing incidents, after which they left without creating confrontations.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 2000 GMT on 16 April adds that "youths from the East Jerusalem village of Silwan gathered and threw stones at a Border Police unit" and that "policemen dispersed the stone throwers with tear gas."]

West Bank, Gaza Curfews Lifted

TA1704054889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Text] The army has lifted its curfew from the Gaza Strip and most of Judaea and Samaria. The exceptions are Nabulus and the surrounding refugee camps, as well as the refugee camp at Al-Duhayshah. Curfews also remain imposed on several refugee camps in the Gaza Strip.

Earlier, widespread disturbances were reported in the Gaza Strip, even while the curfew was in force. Palestinians burned tires and screamed "God is great" at army patrols; this during the commemoration of the first anniversary of the assassination of PLO leader Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir].

Bus Stoned in East Jerusalem

TA1704104289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Text] A No 23 bus was stoned on Salah al-Din Street in East Jerusalem this morning. Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that the driver chased the stone throwers and fired three shots in the air from his pistol.

A police force was alerted to the area and detained a youth identified by the driver as responsible for the incident.

No Casualties in Firebombing

TA1704112189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Text] Two explosive charges were thrown in downtown Ramallah today, hitting an Arab vehicle. There were no injuries in the incident. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that Israel Defense Forces personnel closed down the area and began searches.

Al-Duhayshah Girl Killed

TA1704162789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Text] A 13-year-old girl was killed this morning during a demonstration at curfew-bound Al-Duhayshah refugee camp.

Sources at the camp have told our correspondent Arye Gus that the girl was killed by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers during the funeral of a youth killed yesterday, and that she was buried shortly thereafter. The IDF is looking into the report.

This morning, the army blocked the main entrance to Al-Duhayshah to prevent youths from suddenly appearing on the road and hurling stones.

Gaza Youth Dies of Wounds

TA1704172789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] In the Jabalyah refugee camp in the Gaza Strip, a 12-year-old boy was killed by a bullet fired by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers. The bullet struck the youth's thigh, and he died of loss of blood. The incident took place during local disturbances. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the IDF is investigating the circumstances.

It has been learned from Al-Maqasid Hospital in East Jerusalem that a 50-year-old Gaza Strip resident died in the hospital from a head injury sustained 2 weeks ago. People who brought him to the hospital contended that he had been beaten by soldiers.

No Injuries Reported in Pardes Kaz Explosion

TA1604075289 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0730 GMT 16 Apr 89

[Text] This morning a bomb exploded on Hahaluzim Street in Pardes Kaz. No one was hurt and no damage was caused. The bomb was left on the street in a garbage bag.

Policemen summoned to the site detained one suspect.

King Husayn Leaves for France, U.S., UK

JN1604123089 Amman Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 16 Apr 89

[Text] His majesty the king and Her Majesty Queen Nur left Amman for Paris today on the start of working visits to France, the United States, and the United Kingdom. His majesty will hold talks with the leaders of the three countries on developments in the Arab and international scenes and current efforts to bring about a Middle East peace settlement. Relations between Jordan and the three countries will also be discussed.

Their majesties were bidden farewell by his royal highness the crown prince, members of the royal family, as well as high ranking government officials and the ambassadors of France, the United States, and Britain.

His majesty is accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn Husayn, the prime minister, the chief of the Royal Court, his majesty's political and private advisers, and the foreign minister.

His royal highness the crown prince was sworn in as regent before his majesty's departure.

Yasir 'Arafat Pays 2-Day Visit to Amman

Received by King Husayn

JN1504212689 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 15 Apr 89

[Text] His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, has arrived in Amman on a brief visit to Jordan.

During the visit, he will hold talks with His Majesty King Husayn and senior Jordanian officials on developments in both the Arab and international arenas as well as peace efforts in the Middle East.

His Majesty King Husayn was at the head of those receiving President 'Arafat, who was also received by Crown Prince Hasan, the prime minister, the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, his majesty the king's political adviser, his majesty's special adviser, and the deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

'Arafat was also received by 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Yahya, PLO Executive Commiteee member; and 'Umar al-Khatib, director of the PLO's office in Amman. A group of the guard of honor saluted His Majesty King Husayn and His Excellency President 'Arafat.

'Arafat is accompanied by Bassam Abu Sharif, information adviser to President 'Arafat; Sa'id Kamal, director of the PLO's office in Cairo; and Dr Usamah al-Baz, director of the Egyptian president's office and Egyptian Foreign Ministry first under secretary.

Holds Talks, Departs 16 Apr

JN1604064289 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 16 Apr 89

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn and His Excellency President 'Arafat, the President of the State of Palestine, held a closed meeting in Al-Nadwa Palace last night in which they discussed the latest proposals for a just and peaceful settlement in the Middle East.

This comes within the framework of discussions and coordination between the Jordanian and Palestinian leaderships on the eve of His Majesty King Husayn's visit to the United States where he will meet with President George Bush and ranking officials in the new U.S. Administration.

An expanded meeting was held which was attended on the Jordanian side by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the prime minister, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, his majesty's political adviser, his majesty's special adviser, and deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs.

On the Palestinian side, the meeting was attended by Sa'id Kamal, head of the PLO office in Cairo; President 'Arafat's information adviser, Bassam Abu Sharif; PLO Executive Committee member 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Yahya; and 'Umar al-Khatib, head of the PLO office in Amman.

His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat left Amman at dawn this morning after a visit to Jordan lasting a few hours.

'Official Source' on Talks

JN1604125889 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Apr 89

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The PLO stand on Shamir's election proposals was discussed by King Husayn and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat during the latter's brief visit to Amman. An official source said that during the talks, 'Arafat reiterated to the Jordanian monarch the PLO conditions for holding elections, which are that Israel should withdraw from the occupied territory and that elections should be held under UN supervision.

The same source added that Jordan regards Shamir's proposal as an Israeli attempt to hamper the peace process and create a schism between the Palestinians of the occupied territory and the PLO. The source expressed the hope that the U.S. Administration would not attach great importance to this plan which could set the peace process back 1 or maybe 2 years.

King Receives Call From Syria's Hafiz al-Asad
JN1504070689 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 15 Apr 89

[Text] Amman—His Majesty King Husayn last night received a telephone call from his brother, His Excellency Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Syrian Arab Republic. The two Arab leaders exchanged views on a number of pan-Arab issues of common concern and on Arab developments in the Arab and international scenes.

Algerian Foreign Minister Begins Visit 14 Apr
JN1404124089 Amman Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Text] The Algerian Foreign Minister, Mr Boualem Bessaieh, arrived in Amman today via Al-Ramtha on a 2-day visit to Jordan. The Algerian foreign minister will meet with his majesty the king and a number of top officials.

He told reporters upon arrival that he carries a message to his majesty the king from Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid. He said his talks with Jordanian officials will center on recent developments in the area.

Meets King Husayn
JN1504133989 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Apr 89

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has received a letter from His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid of Algeria. It was delivered to his majesty by Algeria's foreign minister, Boualem Bessaieh, when he called on the king at the Hashemite Royal Court this afternoon. The letter, part of continuing consultations between His Majesty King Husayn and his brother Arab leaders, deals with Arab developments and ties between the two countries.

Attending the audience were the chief of the royal court, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the Algerian ambassador in Amman.

Meets Foreign Minister
JN1404192489 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Text] Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met with Algerian Foreign Minister Boualem Bessaieh today. During the meeting, they reviewed a number of issues of mutual interest.

Cabinet Approves Agreement With IMF on Economy
JN1404200489 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Text] The Council of Ministers met yesterday evening under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i. During the session, the council heard a detailed review by Finance Minister Dr Hanna 'Awdah, who chaired the Jordanian delegation to the talks with the International Monetary Fund [IMF]. The delegation was composed of the ministers of finance, energy, state, planning, trade and industry, and supply, and included the governor of the Central Bank of Jordan.

The finance minister indicated that upon arrival on 18 March 1989 the IMF delegation held a number of sessions with the Jordanians to learn about the various sectors of the Jordanian economy, the state budget, and the deficit in the budget and the balance of payments—the deficit which was basically caused by the well-known failure to honor all the Arab commitments made to Jordan at the Baghdad summit of 1978.

The finance minister pointed out that the measures taken by the government since mid-1988 to tackle the financial situation were sound and correct according to the the IMF delegation. The minister explained to the Council of Ministers the details of the integrated national financial program for the next 5 years which was agreed with the IMF delegation. The program has the following objectives:

1. To maintain the stability of the exchange rate of the dinar at its current value, which was viewed as realistic and suitable by the IMF delegation.

2. To achieve a real growth rate in the gross national product of 4 percent after the 5-year program.

3. To rely on self-potential in the state budget and the balance of payments.

The elements of this program have been drawn up to achieve these objectives. They focus on effecting a reduction in the state budget through reducing and controlling government expenditure, increasing domestic revenues, improving their collection, and rescheduling the repayment of foreign loans.

In addition, these measures are also meant to enrich the investment climate to increase savings, investment, and exports; to rationalize consumption; to control exports; to control inflation; and to enhance the pioneering role of the private sector in investment, production, and exportation.

The finance minister said this program complements the measures taken last year and enables the kingdom to obtain additional financial revenues from the IMF and the World Bank totaling $275 million in the coming 18 months, in addition to other revenues acquired through bilateral agreements with friendly states.

The Council of Ministers has approved the program agreed upon by Jordan and the IMF delegation. The program requires that the state budget deficit for the current year be reduced by increasing domestic revenues, and by reducing expenditure without prejudicing government subsidies on basic foodstuffs which will be kept at their present level.

The prime minister instructed ministries and public institutions to take the necessary measures to implement the program.

The Council of Ministers welcomed this agreement and voiced its thanks to the Financial, Economic, and Planning Committee for its efforts to develop the program. The program will achieve balanced and steady growth in the national economy based on a sound footing and in a manner inspiring confidence in our economic and developmental progress.

Royal Decree Approves New Electoral Law
JN1504213989 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 15 Apr 89

[Text] Amman—A royal decree was issued today approving the Council of Ministers' decision to amend the House of Representatives' electoral law. The provisions of this law have remained as approved by the previous House of Representatives, with the exception of some amendments cancelling the seats allocated for the West Bank after the legal and administrative disengagement [from the West Bank].

Another exception is that the number of seats allocated for the Kingdom's deputies has been increased from 71 to 72 seats, adding a new seat to the Amman constituency to comply with the constitutional provision that the Senate have half the number of members of the House of Representatives.

The new law also abolishes 11 seats that were allocated for the camps from the West Bank, taking into consideration that citizens inhabiting the camps shall exercise the right to election and nomination in accordance with the new law in the constituencies where they reside.

The amendment also reinforces the guarantees that ensure the accuracy and integrity of the electoral lists whether through increasing the length of time voters have to verify the voters' lists or by simplifying and facilitating the work of the polling committee and other committees.

The law, in its basic principles, has remained as it was approved by the Parliament, whether in the Senate or the House of Representatives, before it was dissolved.

Spanish Ambassador Dies of Wounds 16 Apr

NC1604152789 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in English 1521 GMT 16 Apr 89

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen: After Deputy Abu Sharaf, the Syrian criminal shelling has now killed a member of the diplomatic body, the Spanish Ambassador Pedro Manuel de Aristegui, and his father-in-law, the famous Lebanese author Tawfiq Yusuf 'Awwad. They were killed in the Syrian bombardment of the area of Al-Hadath.

Further on Ambassador's Death

NC1604160589 Paris AFP in English 1552 GMT 16 Apr 89

[Text] Beirut, April 16 (AFP)—The Spanish ambassador to Lebanon, two of his family members and a bodyguard were fatally wounded Sunday [16 April] when a shell slammed into his home in a Christian suburb of Beirut, medical sources and Spanish Embassy officials said.

Ambassador Don Pedro Manuel de Aristegui, 62, died in hospital a few hours after the blast. His Lebanese-born wife Joumana was reported to be in critical condition at Secre Coeur Hospital, doctors there said. The couple's two children were also wounded, but not seriously, when the shell hit the ambassador's residence at Al-Hadath, a Christian suburb of Beirut, as the family prepared to sit down with guests for Sunday lunch, an embassy spokesman said.

The blast instantly killed Mrs. de Aristegui's father, noted Lebanese writer Tawfiq Yusuf 'Awwad, her sister, Samya Tutunji, and one of the ambassador's bodyguards, the spokesman said. Some Spanish journalists also invited for lunch had not yet arrived, he said. The interior of the home was completely devastated.

At least seven other people died Sunday when intense shelling engulfed both Christian and Moslem regions of Lebanon, according to hospital sources. The artillery duels have raged since March 14, when Christian leader General Michel 'Awn declared a "war of liberation" against the 35,000 Syrian troops who control two-thirds of Lebanon and back the rival government of Moslem Premier Salim al-Huss.

'Awn Comments on Death

NC1604180889 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1741 GMT 16 Apr 89

[Text] Commenting on the death of the Spanish ambassador, Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn has said: The assassination of the ambassador of a friendly state by a Syrian artillery shell is the best proof of the barbarism of the Syrian occupation and its disregard of international charters and conventions, human rights, and the laws pertaining to warfare. We very much regret the assassination of a friendly ambassador who believed in the message of peace and dialogue among peoples. We wish a quick recovery to the members of the Spanish Embassy who were wounded. We hope that the world will condemn and denounce this abominable crime.

Following this crime, the prime minister contacted the king of Spain and the Spanish prime minister to inform them of the crime and convey his condolences.

Al-Huss Cables Condolences

NC1704130589 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss has sent cables of condolences on the death of the Spanish ambassador to Spanish King Juan Carlos, Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, and Minister of Foreign Affairs Francisco Fernandez-Ordonez. In his cables, Dr Al-Huss extolled the late ambassador and expressed deep sorrow over the incident.

The Lebanese Government has decided to award the ambassador the highest Lebanese medal, the Order of the Grand Sash, in appreciation for the role he played in Lebanon.

14 Wounded Evacuated to French Hospital Ship

NC1504071889 Paris AFP in English 0630 GMT 15 Apr 89

[Excerpt] Beirut, April 15 (AFP)—France evacuated 14 wounded Lebanese Friday night [14 April] through the Christian port of Juniyah to a French hospital ship anchored offshore, an AFP correspondent said.

The operation, codenamed "Acanthe," was kept quiet, with French authorities requesting a news blackout while it was underway, well within range of Moslem and Syrian artillery. Four French military ambulances drove into the port with the wounded, where some 20 Lebanese sailors and two officers had taken up positions around a barge to take the casualties to the hospital ship "La Rance."

France's Secretary of State for Humanitarian Action Bernard Kouchner, who personally supervised from the quayside, said the Moslem authorities would not [as received] be told of the operation Saturday morning, and regretted that it had not proved possible to mount a similar rescue from Moslem areas.

The "Rance" and an oil tanker have been stationed in international waters 12 nautical miles off the Lebanese coast. Two French Navy ships have been keeping the "Rance" "under distant surveillance," sources in Paris said. The French rescue operation had initially been rejected by the cabinet of Salim al-Huss, Moslem premier of one of Lebanon's two rival governments, who said the French were siding with the Christians.

Mr. al-Huss finally accepted the French offer of help on Thursday after President Francois Mitterrand said France was the friend of "all Lebanese, regardless of religion."

However, Walid Junblatt, the staunchly pro-Syrian Druze leader, imposed fresh conditions, saying the Christians would have to lift a blockade of militia-run ports before the French ships could dock.

Mr. al-Huss would be informed of the rescue operation on Saturday morning by France's Ambassador to Lebanon Paul Blank, Mr. Kouchner said. Visibly nervous and puffing at a cigarette, Mr. Kouchner boarded the barge with the wounded. A Lebanese officer told him: "We have taken every precaution. The risks are as limited as possible."

Lebanese Red Cross stretcher bearers took the casualties onto the 60 metre (200-feet) long Edic class barge, equipped with two 20 millimetre cannons and two machine guns. It took 90 minutes to get everyone on board.

All lights extinguished and escorted by two Lebanese Navy launches, the barge left the port, at 11:00 (2100 GMT), for a rendezvous with "La Rance" two hours later. The families of the wounded had been told of the evacuation plan only one hour before it started. Two casualties missed the rendezvous. [passage omitted]

French Embassy on Evacuation

NC1504075889 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 15 Apr 89

[Text] Last night, 14 wounded people were transported from the port of Juniyah [in East Beirut] to the French hospital ship "La Rance," which is docked off the coast. The operation was supervised by Bernard Kouchner, French secretary of state for humanitarian action, who told reporters it was regrettable that a similar evacuation could not be carried out from the other side. He added: However, we are willing to discuss all possible solutions.

A communique released by the French Embassy said: The humanitarian aid is continuing. Thus, the first group of wounded has arrived onboard the ship "Rance." Half of the ship's load of food and medicine has been taken ashore. This process is continuing and the ship is staying.

The French secretary of state for humanitarian action is pursuing his contacts with Prime Minister Salim al-Huss to receive more wounded and to unload the remaining half of the food and medical supplies.

Al-Huss Reacts to Evacuation

NC1504120889 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 15 Apr 89

[Text] Commenting on the transportation of some wounded to the French hospital ship "La Rance" last night, Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss said: I will content myself with saying at present that we were surprised by this step when we were informed of it, especially as the French stand insists that the aid should be distributed in the two areas simultaneously.

Meanwhile, Dr al-Huss has received a telephone call from Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, chairman of the Arab committee and Kuwaiti foreign minister, who briefed him on the latest efforts and consultations being made by the committee and the results of the committee's meeting with the Lebanese Front delegation.

Al-Huss, French Envoy Agree on Aid Distribution

NC1704103789 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0930 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss received French Minister Bernard Kouchner at 0930 today. After the meeting, Kouchner said that he completely agrees with Prime Minister al-Huss on the continued delivery of French aid to Lebanon.

When Kouchner was asked about the nature of the agreement, Prime Minister al-Huss intervened and said: It is not necessary to talk about the details now. We agree completely on the operation and its details.

Kouchner expressed his optimism about the operation's success, maintaining that this would be tantamout to success for friends and the Lebanese people. He said that Prime Minister al-Huss is working hard for a cease-fire, adding that this is not part of his task. But what he heard from Prime Minister Al-Huss indicates that intensive efforts are being made to achieve a final cease-fire.

Regarding the cease-fire, Prime Minister al-Huss said he does not know what happened yesterday. "We tried to achieve a cease-fire, but we were unsuccessful, I am sorry about what happened," he said.

Al-Husayni, Iranian Charge Discuss Aid

NC1704110589 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1030 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Text] Following his meeting with Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni today, Iranian charge d'affaires Hoseyn Niknam said that they discussed the aid which Iran can provide to the Lebanese through the legitimate government of Prime Minister al-Huss. Niknam said that Iran has decided to provide such aid, which will consist primarily of petroleum and medicines.

'Government Source' on State Department Statement

NC1504130989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 15 Apr 89

[Text] A government source has commented on the recent statement by U.S. State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler.

The source said: Despite the apparent optimism of the U.S. statement, there are some remarks which cannot be ignored. Foremost among these is the failure to explicitly note the Syrian occupation. This is just criticism of a superpower that the world expects to utter the truth, call things by their names, and make distinctions between the aggressor and the victim, between the nationalist and the occupier, and between what is legitimate and what is not. Within this context, we were hoping that the United States would indicate some denunciation of the Syrian shelling, which has also targeted three ships off the Lebanese coast and is thus hampering international shipping.

Besides, the prevention by any state of the arrival of humanitarian aid to an ill-fated people, regardless of the means, must be denounced and condemned. There is also another point in the American statement about the presidency, reform, and power-sharing that can not be implemented under the Syrian occupation. Although General 'Awn and his government, as well as their representatives, are adhering to reform and power-sharing, we blame the United States in two ways in this respect:

One, the partition of the country is not the result of a dispute over the presidency of the republic or the reform and how to constitute two basic steps toward the restoration of Lebanon's unity. Rather, it is Syrian occupation which created the imposed partition.

Two, the attempt to create a link between occupation and reform and the suggestion that they are synonymous, as if the United States is encouraging some to use Syrian pressure to achieve domestic political gains, is a matter of grave significance in how the world deals with the Lebanese crisis.

The government source adds: Two other points remain to be made. The real reasons for not electing a president of the republic have been ignored. These reasons can be attributed to an occupation that has eroded the atmosphere of freedom and impaired democratic and free parliamentary practices. Also, the U.S. statement did not point out the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon. The Syrian occupier uses this as a pretext to stay in Lebanon while Israel uses the Syrian occupation as an excuse to stay on Lebanese soil.

This indecisive U.S. stand represents a justification for the continuation of both occupations.

Syria Reportedly Planning To Storm East Beirut

JN1604160889 Baghdad INA in English 1550 GMT 16 Apr 89

[Text] Paris, Apr 16 (INA)—Lebanese sources in Paris reported that troops of the Syrian regime in Lebanon had drawn up a plan to storm the eastern sector of Beirut, definitely from the northern area, within the coming 72 hours.

These sources told IRAQI NEWS AGENCY in Paris that the Syrian regime would depend, in executing the breakthrough plan, on camouflage. The regime selected special troops for this purpose and clad them in military uniform similar to those used by the Phalangist forces.

These sources pointed out that the Syrian plan includes, immediately after the Syrian troops' success in infiltration, engagement with the troops of the Lebanese Army and the attempt to spread the engagement on the entire area between the two sides and implementing the second stage of the Syrian storming plan.

These sources confirmed that commanders of the Lebanese Army were accurately watching these movements and that they were doomed to failure due to its being not the first attempt to which the Syrian regime resorted in attempts against the Lebanese resistance, rejecting the Syrian occupation.

'Extreme Caution' Prevails; Casualties Cited

NC1704105789 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1030 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Excerpts] A state of extreme caution prevails on the various traditional combat lines in Beirut, the southern suburb, and the mountain following clashes and shelling this morning which affected the various residential neighborhoods in the nationalist areas, particularly in Beirut and the mountain. [passage omitted]

The number of victims of yesterday's treacherous shelling by Michel 'Awn and his clique has risen to 36 dead and 181 wounded, according to AFP's latest figures.

Renewed Shelling of West Beirut Reported

NC1704150089 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1434 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Text] Dear listeners, we were informed a short time ago that the Al-Yarzah army has triggered the security situation anew and its malicious shells have begun to fall on the areas of UNESCO, Suq al-Rawshah, Summerland, Al-Ramlah al-Bayda', the Kuwaiti Embassy, Bi'r Hasan, Al-Raml al-'Ali, and Al-Rasul al-A'zam, up to the area of 'Aramun.

Therefore, we ask the citizens to take precautions.

Syrians Supply Rockets, Launchers to Al-Khatib

NC1604075289 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 16 Apr 89

[Text] Military sources in West Beirut have disclosed that the Syrian occupation forces have supplied so-called Brigadier General Sami al-Khatib's army with weapons and ammunition as follows: The 12th Battalion of the 1st Brigade, four launchers and (BM-21) rockets; the 65th Battalion, two (BM-21) rocket launchers.

The Syrian occupation forces have also introduced launchpads from which surface-to-surface rockets are launched, and installed them in the area between Al-Manarah and Al-Damur. Three 130-mm guns have also been installed at the Sports Club's playing field opposite the military beach.

In a statement released by his breakaway command yesterday, Brigadier General al-Khatib indirectly admitted that he has received Syrian weapons. He announced in his statement that he has ordered his forces and the forces allied with Damascus to return the fire.

Electricity, Water Cut; Bread Crisis Emerges

NC1704113989 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1030 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Excerpt] Beirut areas are without electricity and water. An acute bread crisis also emerged today. Last night, The Beirut Water Authority stopped pumping water to the capital because of the general power cut and because the power supply to the water pumping station in Al-Dubayyah had been terminated.

The general blackout extended from Al-Batrun in the north to Al-Damur in the south and will continue until fuel is supplied to the Zuq Mikha'il thermal power station. This station feeds these areas with electricity, as the Lebanese Electricity Authority has stated. [passage omitted]

Al-Shar' Criticizes France's Lebanon Policy

JN1604204489 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2010 GMT 16 Apr 89

[From the "Panorama" program]

[Text] In an interview with a French radio station today, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' criticized France's policy in Lebanon, describing it as a futile policy and one based on a double standard. He added that this policy can never win the respect of either Lebanese or Arabs.

Al-Shar' said he rejects the internationalization of the Lebanese crisis because internationalization will further complicate it. He added: The three-member [as heard] Arab committee, whose efforts Syria continues to support, must be given a full chance.

In reply to a question, Al-Shar' rejected the description of the Syrian presence in Lebanon as being an occupation. He said: This presence is legitimate in the eyes of the majority of the Lebanese and as affirmed by many Arab summits.

On the subject of General 'Awn, the Syrian foreign minister said: Gen 'Awn does not represent all the Maronites or all the Christians. He speaks only on behalf of one of the Lebanese factions that has rebelled against the Arab decision.

Pakistani Minister Arrives, Makes Statement

JN1504172589 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 15 Apr 89

[Text] Malik Mohammad Qasim, Pakistan's state minister and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's political adviser, arrived in Damascus this afternoon. Greeting him at Damascus International Airport were Nasir Qaddur, state minister for foreign affairs, the chiefs of Asia and protocol desks at the Foreign Ministry, and the Pakistani ambassador in Damascus and embassy staff.

Qasim told SANA relations between Syria and Pakistan are friendly and hoped his visit will lead to further developing them. He said that during his visit he will meet with several officials and discuss issues of mutual interest.

Received by Al-Asad

JN1604124589 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 16 Apr 89

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received at 1300 this afternoon Mr Malik Mohammad Qasim, Pakistani minister of state, political advisor and personal envoy of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

The meeting was attended by the Pakistani ambassador in Damascus. The president received a message from the Pakistani envoy from Prime Minister Bhutto. Her personal envoy also conveyed to the president the prime minister's greetings and good wishes. The president accepted them thankfully and conveyed his greetings and best wishes to Mrs Bhutto and the Pakistani people.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' had received Mr Malik Mohammad Qasim this morning. During the meeting, they discussed bilateral relations and means of developing them in various fields. They also discussed current developments in the region and Afghanistan.

Afghanistan

PRAVDA Cited on Kabul-Rebel Cease-Fire Talks

BK1604155689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 Apr 89

[Text] A cease-fire between Afghan forces and the rebels appears to be in sight even though fierce fighting continued in Jalalabad and Khowst. The Soviet daily PRAVDA today reported some success in the talks between the government forces and 200 rebel commanders. It said the commanders have indicated an inclination to accept the reconciliation offer of the Kabul regime. The daily said a leading rebel commander, Sayyed Ahmad, has left for Kabul along with his troops for further talks with the Najib government.

Meanwhile, Moscow Radio reported that the rebels have stepped up their attack in the Jalalabad region and attempted to capture the airport. They have also made fresh advances toward Khowst. The government troops in a counteroffensive inflicted heavy damages to the rebels in both the areas.

Najibullah Speaks on Geneva Accords Anniversary

LD1504221589 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 15 Apr 89

[Speech by President Najibullah at Foreign Ministry in Kabul on 15 April at anniversary meeting of signing of Geneva accords—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Dear compatriots, once again I have this opportunity to speak on this sacred day during the holy month of Ramadân, when all the religious people of Afghanistan pray to God and express thanks for what he has given to them. They ask for forgiveness for the sins they have committed.

Today, 15 April, is exactly 1 year since the Geneva accords were signed. During the 6 years of long and difficult negotiations which resulted in the signing of these accords, thousands of innocent people fell victim to the fratricidal war.

The main points of this accord are foreigners' noninterference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan and a guarantee that it will not reoccur; the voluntary return of refugees to their homeland; and the withdrawal of the Soviet military forces within the framework of a comprehensive soluton to the issue. It was hoped that all forms of foreign interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, which is mainly taking place from Pakistan, would end after the Geneva accords were signed.

Today, 2 months have passed since the complete withdrawal of limited Soviet forces from Afghanistan, but war, interference, and armed aggression continue with an unprecedented intensity more so even than the previous 10 years. Pakistan and the United States' violaton of the Geneva accords has caused a serious threat to the political independence, territorial integrity, and national sovereignty of our country. This interference could possibly result in a regional conflict.

The signing of the Geneva accords created many hopes for ending the war and bloodshed in Afghanistan. These accords proved wrong all the accusations that Afghanistan is under the permanent occupation of a foreign power. On the contrary, the sincere and full implementation of these accords enhanced the international credibility and prestige of the Republic of Afghanistan. This credibility and prestige was doubled as a result of the capability of the republic in independently defending the honor of the country. Then why has the situation had a negative effect during this last year?

Afghanistan and the world's people welcomed the Geneva accords as the beginning of a period of peace and tranquility. What caused the hopes created as a result of the signing of these accords, to turn into doubts? Let us assess the party's approach to these accords during the last year.

The Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union, immediately after signing the accords, began the first stage of withdrawing the Soviet limited contingents from Afghanistan, and completed it before the expiry date of the fixed timetable. The remainder of the Soviet forces returned to their country a few days before the fixed date. Legal and practical measures and steps have been taken to prepare the ground for the return of refugees to their homes.

To organize their affairs, acceptance and resettlement, the Ministry of Returnees' Affairs was formed and assembly centers were established at various border points. A general amnesty was announced for all people returning to the country or refraining from fighting. A large number of regions in the border provinces were declared demilitarized zones in order to allay any of the refugee's fears about their safety.

In addition the Republic of Afghanistan, on various occasions, presented new proposals and plans in the framework of the national reconciliation policy in order to end the war and to ensure peace, which could bring about positive results to remove the conflicts in the region and in the world. We proposed that Afghanistan become a permanent nonaligned country and fully demilitarized, and that this issue should be approved and guaranteed by an international conference. We also proposed that a reconstruction program and a revival of the country's economic and social spheres be drafted and implemented.

Dear compatriots, despite all the Republic of Afghanistan's initiatives, measures, and farsighted efforts to ensure peace in Afghanistan and in the region, what has been Pakistan's reaction?

Immediately after signing the Geneva accords Pakistan resorted to extensive efforts to conceal the examples and forms of its interference in the internal affairs of our country. As the whole transport network of Pakistan's Armed Forces started to operate, within a month after the accords were signed, they transfered almost all the arms and ammunition depots of the Pakistani-backed armed groups to the tribal regions along the border zone and the regions which the Republic of Afghanistan declared as demilitarized zones.

Also huge amounts of arms and ammunition from the depots and warehouses of Pakistan's Armed Forces were transported to Afghanistan's border provinces. The Pakistani military authorities, with the assistance of leaders of groups they support, resorted to an extensive and unprecedented propaganda campaign against the Republic of Afghanistan, and using all their means and resources prevented the return of Afghan refugees. During this time they enforced conscription on the residents of the refugees' camps, which have now been transformed into refugee jails by the Pakistani military.

The Pakistani military intelligence prepares operations and aggression against the cities and provinces of our country and organizes the armed opposition groups. The Pakistani military and their Western patrons, by inflicting various pressures, have forced the different Afghan opposition groups to form the so-called consultative council and have created a government in Rawalpindi made up of very well-known faces.

After completing the withdrawal of Soviet forces, the intelligence service of Pakistan started to infiltrate this client government in Afghanistan, with direct and broad assistance from Pakistan's Armed Forces, and to install it in one of the eastern provinces of Afghanistan. They have now embarked on open and armed aggression against our country, and exposed their evil intentions to merge our country under the guise of a confederation. This is Pakistan's approach and its commitment under the framework of the Geneva accords.

Now let us see what measures have been taken in the domestic area within the past year by the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan?

During this period we have followed the policy of national reconciliation with courage and direction, and have taken brave steps for the deepening and practical implementation of this policy. The manifestation of democracy in the political life of our society, namely parliament, a multiparty political system, and a multi-based economy were consolidated in our country. Valuable experiences were gained in creating a government with a broad social basis and the administration of local and regional affairs within a coalition structure.

New economic areas were opened up to the private sector. A unilateral cease-fire and a truce were announced several times. New approaches for contacts and dialogue with the opposition were proposed. New formulas for the distribution and participation in government power were proposed to the opposition. In short, all rational and necessary measures that could have possibly fulfilled the opposition's demands were carried out.

What was the reaction of armed extremists vis-a-vis all our endeavors? They stubbornly rejected every peaceful solution and tied their hopes to a military solution. At one time they claimed that they were fighting against the presence of foreign forces and the occupation of the country. Immediately after the withdrawal of Soviet forces they unprecedently intensified their military activities and armed atacks against our Muslim compatriots. The opposition sat around the negotiating table with those they called the occupier and enemy. However, they refused to talk with us as Muslims and their compatriots, even in the house of God.

They fire rockets and heavy weapons at cities and residential areas and block the roads used for transporting foodstuffs to our poor and Muslim people. If we look at figures it is really dreadful. During the past year 432,730 rockets, artillery shells, mortars, and other heavy weapons were fired on the cities, residential areas, and public welfare installations. As a result of these poundings, 2,222 civilian compatriots, including children, women, and elders were martyred.

Moreover, 13,776 were wounded. Among this figure 1,505 were women, children, and elderly. Of course we can not remain indifferent during the year after the Geneva accords were signed with regard to these aggressive and barbaric attacks by the armed extremists and their Pakistani supporters. On the basis of our natural right for self-defense we took retaliatory action, as a result of which 35,927 men of the armed opposition, which includes a large number of Pakistanis and Saudi Wahabbi mercenaries, were killed; 17,547 were wounded.

If the armed extremists had given a positive reply to our call for peace and our cease-fire proposals, then there would have been no reason for all those innocent human beings to lose their lives or become maimed; and thousands of Afghan families mourn for the losses they suffered. The damages stemming from the subversive activities of the armed extremists amounted to 9 billion afghanis in the past year. We could have prevented the losses to the national and private wealth.

Our conscience is clean. We do not feel that we have committed a sin before almighty God and our people, because, with all our power, we have endeavored to prevent the continuous trend of killing, bloodshed, and destruction in our country. However, the blood of the human beings which was shed and the responsibility for the destruction in the past year rests with those who have chosen war as a means of livelihood and for securing personal interests. Their hands are being soiled with the blood of innocent people. The cry and prayer of our

Muslim people will burn the skirt [as heard] of the oppressor and dictator. Almighty God does not forgive those who shed the blood of his slaves.

Imagine that with all these human beings and all the wealth that has been destroyed, how much work we could have done for the construction of this demolished home and how many people's wounds could have been cured.

Dear compatriots, with the withdrawal of the Soviet military forces from the Republic of Afghanistan a new situation and conditions were created in the country. We Afghans must prove to ourselves and to the world that we have the ability, talent, potential, and capability to determine independently and united the future of the country and our destiny, as well as the growth prospects of our society's socio-economic and political life on the basis of the fundamental principle of the high interests of our people and homeland in accordance with the traditions, realities, and circumstances of our Islamic and Afghan society.

The Republic of Afghanistan government's policy in the socio-economic and political fields is completely subjected to the interests and wishes of the people of Afghanistan and will be based on the following:

In the political field, I would like to reemphasize, despite the opposition of the armed extremist forces and their warmongering stance, that the Republic of Afghanistan is fully loyal to the continuation and pursuance of the national reconciliation policy in all its aspects and parts, and will remain so because this policy conforms with the interests of our country and people. The state will continue its efforts to find the means to talks, dialogue, and understanding with all opposition forces, including parties, organizations, formations, internal commanders, armed groups, and political individuals. Some protocols have already been signed with opponents in a number of provinces of the country, and they are honestly observed.

Our political system should be much more just and should be based on Islamic culture and the traditions of Afghan society. We will further propagate the good tradition of assemblies and the principle of the electability of national and regional leading organs. Coalition administration from the subdistrict level to the highest national organs has come into existence as the best form and mechanism of collective administration and has been consolidated. Right now there are nonparty individuals or those associated with other parties in regional state power organs.

All Afghan people must have the right to take equal part in administrating and leading the country directly or through their political organization.

The observance of and respect for the Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan and the serious consolidation of the principle of legality, whether in connection with the citizens of the country or the state and all its organs, will be ensured and guaranteed. The scope and limits of the rights and obligations of the citizens of Afghanistan are set out and are seriously respected regardless of their political, national, tribal, regional, linguistic, and ethnic associations. This policy will continue.

The freedom of political activities, speech, and press is guaranteed by law and is respected.

To ensure peace and stability, in line with the high interests of Afghanistan, the ground has been laid to set up local administrative units with wide authority to enhance the extent of local autonomy.

In the sphere of foreign policy, the high interests of our people and country, the principles of peaceful coexistance and complete equality of rights between states, and free and positive neutrality will continue to be the fundamental guidelines to relations with other countries.

The expansion and enhancement of friendly and mutually fruitful relations with our neighbors, i.e., India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, China, Pakistan, and the Soviet Union, will form one the most important goals of Afghan foreign policy as a peace and stabilizing factor in the region. We make due efforts toward consolidating and deepening our relations with Islamic countries, with whom solid faith and religious ties link us. We will expand our relations with the member countries of the Nonaligned Movement.

The Republic of Afghanistan believes that the causes and reasons of the poor and reduced relations with a number of countries have now been fully alleviated by our side and that these countries will be ready to extend a positive response to our efforts for the normalization and improvement of relations between our countries.

In the economic sphere, during the undeclared war against the Republic of Afghanistan, great losses have been inflicted on our economy. Its costs reach hundreds of billions of afghanis. For instance, more than 1,000 economic and project units, 350 bridges, 3,000 km of highway, and 5,000 trucks have been destroyed. Agriculture is in a very difficult situation. The turnover of domestic and foreign trade exchange has been considerably reduced. In the present situation the most important and vital task of the Republic of Afghanistan is to fill the compatriots' empty stomachs.

The state will use all possibilities to alleviate the lack of food and other necessary goods. In proportion to the requirements of the present stage of the country's development and for the reconstruction of socio-economic life, all efforts and measures will be applied to effectively use all economic capacities, and foreign and international aid.

Great attention has been paid to the issue of encouraging the development of and strengthening the private sector and to prepare for their participation in industry, agriculture, transport, other sectors, and where such institutions have come into existence. They are supported by the Republic of Afghanistan. A large number of the institutions which are still in the hands of the state will be transferred to the private sector.

Due legal grounds will be created for Afghan nationals living abroad to safely send their capital to the country themselves or through their representatives, and to engage in various fruitful activities in the economic sphere. Due measures will be taken so that the private sector may enjoy the legal and financial backing of the state, and obtain modern production equipment, particularly in industry. Appropriate legal conditions have been created for introducing foreign capital and investment independently or in collaboration with the private or state sector. The state is determined to continue this policy.

With the creation of favorable conditions, a specific plan to revive the work and activities of the destroyed and inactive economic projects will be prepared and approved, without taking into account the fact of whether the aforementioned projects are located in the territory under the control of the state or of the opposition. Meanwhile, priority should be given to the projects which meet the essential requirements of the people and the economy of the country, and those which have good economic results and ensure an increase in employment, taking into account the forthcoming return of the refugees.

Also, a complex and farsighted program for the revival and development of the national economy will be prepared. This work should be implemented taking into account the UN economic and humanitarian program for Afghanistan, the long-term economic, technical, and trade cooperation program between the Soviet Union and Afghanistan in September 1988, and attract the assistance of international organizations and banks and individual countries.

Considering the fact that most Afghans live in rural localities and are engaged in agriculture, the Republic of Afghanistan considers its first duty to provide and increase all-round assistance, just as it does at present, to the esteemed land-owners, through offering special credit, and to provide sowing seeds and chemical fertilizers, simple agricultural equipment, repairs and construction, rebuild irrigation systems, and implement measures in crop and livestock exploitation.

The state is determined to provide all the necessary assistance to create normal activity on major land projects, especially in the private sector, to increase the production of various basic kinds of output in agriculture based on firm historical production ties in this field, and on the basis of a new approach toward the implementation of the land policy, which is being prepared during the process of ensuring national reconciliation.

Taking into account the mistakes which took place before the fulfillment of the land reform, a new agricultural policy will be prepared and announced. In order to determine the preference aspects of development in this field, the need to improve and expand the export potential of the country will be considered.

In irrigation, an effort to revive the traditional systems of irrigation will be made. Primary measures will be taken to jointly construct new and modern irrigation systems in the next stage. Soon construction work will begin on a number of irrigation projects.

In industry, attention will paid to revive and ensure the work and activity of enterprises which provide people's primary goods and to ensure the preferential development of the light industry and foodstuffs industry by the construction of small and medium enterprises in these fields. Simultaneously, technical economic work will be carried out on larger-scale projects, such as the discovery of copper, iron, and [word indistinct] mines and other natural resources, which should expand the export potential of the country.

Measures will be taken to repair damaged roads, to reconstruct main roads, which ensure firm internal economic ties between the localities and cities of the country, and to reconstruct damaged transportation facilities, airports, bridges, oil depots, etc.

In the social sphere, the damage caused by the war is very great, enormous. For example more than 2,000 schools, 140 hospitals and health centers, and dozens of mosques and holy places have been destroyed as a result of destructive activities by the extremists. During the last 10 years the Republic of Afghanistan, taking into account the prevailing conditions, has provided necessary assistance and helped to repair mosques and sacred places and will follow this policy in the future.

Considering the special importance of the sacred religion of Islam for the Islamic society of Afghanistan and all our people, the Republic of Afghanistan is determined to provide all-round assistance and help in repairing and reviving mosques, sacred places, religious schools, and in constructing new religious establishments.

Our primary task is the revival of medical services, places, and institutions, which have been destroyed and the building of new places and institutions; the establishment of invalid sanatoriums; providing people, particularly less privileged people, with medical equipment and medicine without charging them or at affordable prices.

There are great tasks before us in the reconstruction and development of primary and middle schools, higher educational institutions, and vocational middle schools. In this sphere special attention will be paid to training the young generation in accordance with the tenets of the sacred religion of Islam.

The republic is d
measures to extenetermined to take necessary special
have lost their supl material help to the families which
unwell and invalid porters, to widows and orphans, and
country they live. people, no matter in which part of the
bution of this aid aFor this purpose places for the distri-
be established. nd new kindergartens for orphans will

The extension of h
western provinces elp to the southern, southeastern, and
damage has a spewhich have especially suffered more
reconstruction progcial place in the socio- economic
of tribal regions. gram, especially the residential areas

Dear compatriots, c
to have a peaceful,ur heart is full of good wishes for you
dially request the o calm, and prosperous life. We cor-
of peace. [applause]pportunity to serve you in conditions
swallows most of o Unfortunately, this destructive war
peace is restored, hur time and material possibilities. If
triots who are nowundreds of thousands of our compa-
engage in the creativ in the trenches, fronts, posts, will
If peace is restored/e work of producing material goods.
that are spent for the, thousands of millions of afghanis
on alleviating the pe defense of the country, will be spent
of our shattered andeople's needs and the reconstruction
war we suffer more ruined country. During every day of
result we lag behinddeaths and material losses, and as a
for dozens of days.

Javier Perez de Cue
Nations, on behalfllar, secretary general of the United
expressed concern of the international community,
Genva accords anniyesterday on the occasion of the
war in Afghanistan.versary, on the intensification of the
guarantors of the ag He asked the signatories and the
tions and undertakreements to implement their obliga-
asked the people of ngs honestly and strictly. He also
on the formation of Afghanistan to start immediate talks
a broad socially-based government.

The Republic of Afg
the UN secretary gehanistan says yes to this request of
for the materializaneral, and will not spare any effort
Afghans should unitetion of this goal. Therefore, all
the construction ofedly come to the place of peace and
against warmongers a the country, and resolutely fight
in the hands of alienand those who have become puppets
s.

Our brothers and si
self-sacrificing heroesters in Nangarhar Province, our
history of our count, revive the proud epics of the vivid
gallant and lofty natry and add to the honors of this
defenders boils the tion. In the veins of these brave
second decade of 18t blood of Mirwaises [ruler in the
from Afghanistan], Nh century who ousted the Persians
Afghan flag after thMalalais [the woman who held the
Maiwand battle withe standard bearer fell in famous
men and women belo Britain] and thousands of brave
alities of our country,nging to various tribes and nation-
the country. Let us m We are proud of these true sons of
ers of Nangarhar and ake the jihad of the valiant defend-
Khowst our guidelines.

We are fully confident that with the help of God the great, and with reliance on the freedom-loving people of our country, God willing we will overcome all problems soon, repulse the invasion of the alien, and restore peace to our country. [applause] We will, with the help of God, reconstruct all the ruins, and we will carry our beloved country from backwardness and poverty to the highest stages of progress which our honorable country deserves.

Missiles Fired on Kabul Residential Areas

LD1404175289 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Text] Pakistani-backed criminal extremists fired four surface-to-surface missiles on residential areas of Kabul today, thereby proving once again their hostility to our compatriots' peace and tranquility.

BAKHTAR's military correspondent reports that while our Muslim religious compatriots are performing the duties connected with the sacred month of Ramadan and preparing for Eftar [the breaking of the fast], these criminals blindly fired the missiles sent to them by their masters on the city. Two of the missiles fell on the houses of two compatriots in the (Qal'eh-ye Nejarha) region, (Kheyr Khaneh Mena), attached to the 11th ward, and in (Dasht-e Bost Hazareh) region, attached to Kabul's 6th ward.

As a result of this shocking and unforgivable extemist crime, a 2-year-old child named Karima was martyred in (Qal'eh-ye Nejarha) and three other people were injured, including two children aged 3 and 4 years. In addition, a woman was injured in (Dasht-e Bost Hazareh) region. The injured were taken to hospitals immediately and are undergoing treatment.

The firing of these missiles also resulted in financial losses to our compatriots. Two other missiles also fell on nonresidential areas of (Dasht-e Barchi) and (Kheyr Khaneh Mena), causing financial damage, but no loss of life.

2 Killed in Attack 15 Apr

LD1504165489 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 15 Apr 89

[Text] The criminal extremist protected by Pakistan today committed another shocking and unforgiveable crime against the Muslim and religious people of Kabul by firing six surface-to-surface missiles on Kabul city.

The military section of the BIA reports that the criminals this afternoon indiscriminately launched missiles given to them by their masters, on residential regions of ward 11 of Kabul city at a time when Kabul citizens were making preparation for breaking their fast. As a result of this savage and unforgiveable crime by these traitors, two women were martyred, and two houses of our compatriots were destroyed or partially damaged. Material losses were also inflicted on the houses in the vicinity where the missiles landed.

Sarandoy Seizes Missiles, Mines in Kabul

LD1404190589 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Text] Personnel of the Kabul Sarandoy's eighth security ward command's anti-crime department discovered and seized surface-to-surface missiles, arms, and ammunition today and prevented the occurance of sorrowful incidents in Kabul city. BIA military section reports that the extremists backed by Pakistan, and against the peace and tranquility of our compatriots, hid and placed 9 surface-to-surface missiles, a rocket launcher, 20 boxes of ZK-1, DShk, and machinegun shells, three anti-personnel and anti-vehicle mines, and 16 mortar shells in the eighth ward and intended to slaughter a number of compatriots by firing rockets and organizing destructive activities. This sinister conspiracy by the criminal extremists was discovered and foiled in time with the all-round cooperation of our peace-loving people.

Kabul Reports Salang, Jalalabad Roads Reopened

LD1404181489 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Text] The lengthy interruption in the movement of supply convoys and motor vehicles along the Salang highway caused by armed extremist groups protected by Pakistan has ended and the highway recently was opened to traffic.

BAKHTAR's military section reports that the criminal extremists have ignored the cease-fire announced by the Afghan Government as well as the needs of our Muslim religious people during this holy month of Ramadan. By robbing and plundering the convoys they wanted once again to present the citizens of Kabul with shortages of foodstuffs and other basic commodities. However, the extremists came under the crushing blows of our country's courageous Armed Forces—those guardians of peace and security—and their stubborn resistance was broken.

Despite all the difficulties and obstacles created by the extremists along the Salang-Kabul highway and in Qarah Bagh region, a convoy consisting of 100 motor vehicles carrying basic commodities for our Muslim religious people arrived in Kabul today.

The country's courageous Armed Forces have restored the security of the highway and of the supply convoys. They are fully prepared to give a crushing reply to the extremists protected by Pakistan who intend to rob Kabul citizens of their bread during this holy month. The Armed Forces are prepared to act decisively against saboteurs so as to prevent terrorism and robbery. Responsibility for losses and damages that might be caused as a result of combat operations in the locality will rest with the robbers and their [word indistinct].

The Kabul-Jalalabad highway, where the extremists protected by Pakistan have been plundering the people's property for some time now, creating obstacles to motor vehicle traffic, now has been opened to traffic as a result of mopping-up operations by the country's courageous Armed Forces.

Quoting a competent source in the Armed Forces, BAKHTAR's military section reports that in addition to their savage attacks on Jalalabad, the criminal extremists who are attempting to seize Jalalabad with the protection and direct participation of Pakistani militarists and Arabic Wahabis, also are making futile attempts to hit the brave citizens of Jalalabad and the Armed Forces stationed there with shortages of basic materials.

The country's courageous Armed Forces, who are always ready to give a decisive reply to the robber-extremists—those enemies of our compatriots' peace and tranquility who are attempting to cause difficulties for the Muslim religious citizens of Jalalabad during this holy month of Ramadan—have inflicted crushing blows on the extremists and have opened the Kabul-Jalalabad highway to traffic.

According to another report, a supply convoy arrived in Jalalabad recently, carrying necessities for the Armed Forces and citizens in the city.

Keeping in mind our people's specific needs, the Afghan Armed Forces will give a decisive reply to those who breach the cease-fire. The Armed Forces will not permit the criminal extremists to impose the wishes and instructions of the Pakistani militarists and the Wahabis on the noble and peace-loving people of Jalalabad.

Mujahidin Attack Convoy

BK1504024489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 15 Apr 89

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin reportedly attacked a convoy of vehicles coming from the Soviet Union, causing heavy losses in men and material. This was the first convoy of vehicles to arrive [in Afghanistan] since the mujahidin closed the strategic Salang highway a week ago. In the south, another highway leading to the besieged city of Jalalabad has been closed for the past few weeks.

Reports say the mujahidin are gathering at Khowst to take control of the area and to set up an interim government there.

'Fierce' Fighting Along Highway

BK1604154989 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 16 Apr 89

[Text] In Afghanistan, a fierce tank and rocket war is continuing between the mujahidin and the Kabul regime forces along the Salang highway, about 20 km from the Afghan capital. A REUTERS report says the mujahidin

have taken positions on nearby hills along the Salang highway and are blocking the way of 200 trucks bringing in supplies from the Soviet Union. The mujahidin have also burned down some trucks. Some diplomats say that the convoy comprised 700 trucks, but it is not clear how many of these trucks were burned by the mujahidin.

Meanwhile, in Jalalabad, the mujahidin are continuously attacking (Bagh-e Shahi) with rockets, which was being used as a base by Kabul regime helicopters since the mujahidin destroyed the Jalalabad airport. (Bagh-e Shahi) has been gutted by fire and now it is not suitable for use by the helicopters.

The mujahidin also attacked Behsud military posts, artillery dumps, and certain parts of the Jalalabad city. They attacked a security post in Jalalabad and destroyed two tanks.

A Kabul regime spokesman has admitted that the fighting escalated around the strategic eastern city of Jalalabad yesterday. There are reports of a fierce battle in the Khowst area as well, the spokesman added.

Attempts To Reopen Road Foiled

BK1704024489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin continue to foil attempts by the Kabul regime to reopen the highway between Kabul and Jalalabad. The mujahidin foiled several attempts by a military unit of the Kabul regime to force its way through to enable a convoy of vehicles to bring in government supplies. A number of tanks and other military vehicles were damaged.

Meanwhile, fighting continues with tanks and rockets along the Salang highway near Kabul, which has been blocked by the mujahidin.

Mujahidin Strengthen Jalalabad Positions

Government Eases Bombing

BK1604085089 Hong Kong AFP in English 0826 GMT 16 Apr 89

[By Gilles Bertin]

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, April 16 (AFP)—The mujahidin and government forces are strengthening their positions around Jalalabad as fighting eased slightly in the six-week-old siege of the strategic eastern city, witnesses said Sunday. Government air raids on resistance positions around the strategically important city have decreased in the last few days, while the mujahidin have made only sporadic rocket attacks on the city during the Moslem holy month of Ramadan which began April 6, Western aid workers in the area said.

The road linking Jalalabad with the capital Kabul is still controlled by the mujahidin fundamentalist Hezb-e Eslami Khalis group, as is part of the Salang highway that leads through the Salang Pass linking Kabul with the Soviet Union, resistance sources said here.

"Government planes have reduced the number of their raids ... They always use high altitude bombing," a French nurse said on his return from Samar Kheyl, 10 kilometres (6 miles) from Jalalabad which has been under seige by the mujahidin for more than six weeks. "At night the bombers are guided by a slow, low flying helicopter ... Thirty seconds after it flies over we start to hear the explosions," he said.

"In the last few weeks, 80 percent of the wounded being carried in ambulances belonging to relief organisations were injured by artillery shells or bombs, and 15 percent by mines," he added. The low number of people wounded by small arms fire suggests that close quarter fighting is becoming rarer with both sides remaining fixed in their positions, observers said.

Following intense bombings by government troops at the end of March, the mujahidin have dug in using makeshift bunkers or trenches abandoned by government troops, particularly around the airport to the east of the city, a witness said.

The government in Kabul declared Saturday that the main road linking Jalalabad with Kabul had been reopened. Informed sources said the mujahidin are also apparently preparing to deal with a counter attack by government troops expected to form in eastern Jalalabad.

The number of wounded admitted to the International Red Cross hospital in Peshawar in northwest Pakistan, has doubled, a Red Cross official said Sunday. Some 404 people were treated in March compared with 204 in February, while the hospital's three surgical teams performed 889 operations during the same month, the official added. The number of wounded has also doubled at the Red Cross hospital in Quetta, southwest Pakistan, indicating that fighting was also intense last month around Afghanistan's second city Qandahar, 200 kilometres (124 miles) northwest of Quetta.

32 Kabul Soldiers Killed

BK1604114289 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 16 Apr 89

[Text] In Afghanistan, fierce fighting is reported between mujahidin and Kabul regime troops around Jalalabad. As a result, 32 Kabul regime soldiers were killed and 50 others wounded. Nine soldiers deserted. Mujahidin also captured (Tharasan) and two other military posts, besides destroying large quantity of weapons.

In another attack in Matun area of Paktia Province, mujahidin killed eight Kabul regime soldiers. A military post was also captured during the fighting.

Mujahidin attacked [word indistinct] a battalion in Qandahar area and killed its commander.

Kabul Reports Armed Forces Operations 13-15 Apr

Casualties in Jalalabad

LD1404194889 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Text] An authoritative source in the Armed Forces reported to BAKTHAR's military section that the combined forces of Pakistan and the groups attached to it fired heavy weapons and missiles from various directions on Jalalabad and its residential areas yesterday, as a result of which two people were martyred and another seven were injured. Two houses were also destroyed in Jalalabad. Two Armed Forces personnel stationed in Nangarhar Province were martyred and eight were injured.

As a result of retaliatory attacks by the Afghan Armed Forces, 59 members of the combined Pakistani and extremist forces were killed and 38 others were injured. Among the injured were two Saudi advisers and four commanders of groups attached to Pakistan whose names are (Khan Wali), (Merajan), (Temor Shah), and (Omara Khan). In the course of these operations, 2 recoilless guns, together with 140 shells, and 45 boxes of light weapons also were seized by the Afghan Armed Forces, and 3 enemy recoilless guns, 2 DShKs, 3 mortars, 12 MB-12 systems, two BM-1 systems, 3 rocket launchers, 42 light weapons, 2 vehicles loaded with arms and ammunition and 2 supply depots were destroyed.

According to another report, one civilian was martyred and three Armed Foces personnel were injured when missiles and heavy weapons were fired on residential areas of Khowst major district by the combined Pakistani and extremist forces. The enemy's combined forces tried to advance from various directions, but their plans were foiled and they were pushed back as a result of crushing blows by the Afghan Armed Forces. As a result of operations by the armed forces stationed in Khowst, 44 of the enemy were killed and 11 others injured.

In addition, a large amount of the enemy's arms and ammunition was destroyed. The Afghan Armed Forces stationed in Khowst are defending their trenches with bravery and heroism. The source adds that as a result of operations carried out by the Armed Forces in retaliation for attacks by extremists attached to Pakistan on the outskirts of Ghazni, 12 members from Gulbuddin and (Wahabi Sayyaf) groups were killed and 10 others injured, including (Hafizullah), a ring leader.

Also as a result of mopping-up operations carried out by the Afghan Armed Forces in Enjil District and Shindand major district, Herat Province, in response to the enemy's heavy weapons fire, seven members of the groups backed by Pakistan were killed and three injured. In addition, a large number of the enemy's light and he weapons were destroyed. In the course of these opeavy tions, two Afghan militiamen were martyred and pera- others were injured. two

Yesterday evening, Pakistani-based extremists savag attacked residential areas of Mehterlam, center of Lagely man Province with surface-to-surface missiles. A agh- result of the firing of these missiles on residential areAs a an 11-year-old child was destroyed and four others wreas, injured, including two 10-year-old children. In reta were tion for these attacks, the Afghan Armed Forces taliationed in Laghman Province inflicted crushing blows sta- extremist concentrations, as a result of which six extres on ists were killed and five others injured. rem-

According to another report, the Armed Forces yest day crushed an armed extremist group that attempted ster- disrupt the peaceful life of people by violating d to cease-fire in Bala Boluk, Farah Province. As a result the this combat operation, 15 extremists were killed, incllt of ing their ringleader, (Gholam Sakhi). Two machine glud- also were seized by the Armed Forces. guns

Cease-Fire Broken in Nangarhar

LD1504161489 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 15 Apr 89

[Text] A competent source in the Armed Forces i reported to BAKHTAR's military section that the cea has fire announced by the Armed Forces Supreme Co ase- mand to honor the holy month of Ramadan, vom- breached yesterday in Parvan and Nangarhar Provinc was as well as in Khowst major district by armed grouces, protected by Pakistan. The cease-fire was genera ups observed in other provinces of the country and there ally no reports of combat operations. are

The source in the Armed Forces added that Pakista forces and armed extremist groups protected by Pakistani intensified their attacks in Jalalabad and its airport. stan

The artillery forces of the 11th and 12th Divisions of t Pakistani Army continued raining heavy weapons the residential areas and security posts of Jalalabad, as on result of which 2 inhabitants were martyred and anoths a 19, including women and children, were injured. her house and a shop also were destroyed. The report ad A that four Armed Forces personnel also were wounded dds d.

Armed Forces units and subunits in Nangarhar, whi are courageously defending the country's territorich integrity and sacred sanctity, have foiled the enerial attacks by inflicting crushing blows on them. A lar my amount of enemy trenches, weapons, ammunition, arge strongholds were destroyed and eliminated. nd

The enemy suffered 43 killed and 40 wounded. Tv extremist ringleaders and three advisers from Pakista wo and Saudi Arabia were among those killed. Four enean motor vehicles, one mortar, four rocket launchers, tv my wo

weapons and ammunition depots, two ZK-1's, one artillery piece, (?eight) light weapons, one DShK, and one ZK-1 [as heard] were destroyed.

According to another report, armed extremist groups attached to Pakistani militarists, together with Pakistani militias under the command and control of Pakistani officers, which are holed up in (Ali Sher) subdistrict, Khowst major district, carried out heavy weapons shelling on residential areas and security posts in (Bang) and Ya'qubi subdistricts, for which the Armed Forces units stationed in these places retaliated, killing 33 of the enemy with artillery fire and aerial attacks and wounding another 31. Three enemy mortars, 16 rocket launchers, [words indistinct], 3 motor vehicles, and 9 horses and camels were destroyed.

The report adds that as a result of blows inflicted on those breaching the cease-fire by the Armed Forces in Qalieh-ye (Qal'eh-ye Qazi) and (Sarkotak) regions, Ghazni Province, 13 warmongering extremists were killed and another 20, including a ringleader, were wounded.

17 Rebel 'Advisers' Killed

LD1604171389 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 16 Apr 89

[Text] The cease-fire declared by the Republic of Afghanistan out of respect for the holy month of Ramadan is being observed all over the country, except in Nangarhar, Qandahar, and in some parts of Khowst and Shindand. An authoritive Armed Forces source has informed the BAKHTAR military section that yesterday the combined forces of Pakistan and groups attached to it continued firing missiles and heavy weapons at Jalalabad and the defensive line around it. As a result, one member of the Armed Forces was martyred and another was injured.

Retaliatory attacks were carried out by the Armed Forces on enemy concentration points and supply depots. As a result of these attacks, 58 armed persons were killed, including 5 Wahabi advisers from Saudi Arabia and two extremist ringleaders; another 24 were injured. Three enemy rocket launchers, four recoilless guns, and three major arms and ammunition depots were destroyed.

According to the intelligence report, Pakistan's 11th and 18th Army divisions have increased the flow of military supplies to the enemy front and are trying, with the assistance of Pakistani commanders, Saudi Arabia Wahabis and extremist leaders, to use money and pressure on the opposition groups so as to reorganize them and intensify attacks on Jalalabad and the surrounding areas.

According to another report, forces belonging to Pakistan and groups attached to it yesterday continued to fire heavy weapons on the Khowst area. As a result of this attack, a woman and two children were injured. Some 37 people among the enemy's joint forces were killed and 47 others were injured when the Afghan Armed Forces launched a retaliatory attack in the Kowst area. As a result of this attack, two recoilless guns, four mortars, and three communication systems belonging to the enemy were destroyed.

The source added that two Armed Forces personnel were injured in Qandahar Province yesterday as a result of enemy heavy weapons fire.

As a result of a mopping-up operations and search (Towr Kotal) and Takhteh Pol, Qandahar Province in response to an enemy attack, 17 Pakistani and Saudi Arabian advisers were killed and another 27 were injured.

Vehicles loaded with arms and ammunition and a number of enemy strongholds and trenches were destroyed.

The BAKHTAR military section report adds that the Armed Forces stationed in Shindand district inflicted crushing blows on the cease-fire violators. As a result of these blows on the warmongers, a rocket launcher, a heavy machine gun, and four light machine guns were seized.

Bangladesh

200 Injured in Southern Village Attack 14 Apr

BK1604062289 Hong Kong AFP in English 0615 GMT 16 Apr 89

[Text] Dhaka, April 16 (AFP)—Some 500 attackers raided a southern Bangladesh village, torching and looting houses and leaving 200 people injured, newspapers here reported Sunday [16 April]. Villagers ran screaming for safety as the marauders swooped on the tiny hamlet of Chadramohan [placename as received] in coastal Barisal district 112 kilometers (70 miles) from here Friday, shooting indiscriminately, the reports said.

The attackers set fire to 16 homes and a rice factory and left about 200 people injured, most of them suffering burns but some with bullet wounds. Nine people were abducted during the attack, which was apparently the result of rivalry between local communities, the reports said.

Some 30 people, including the chief of the neighbouring village, were arrested following the incident. About 100 policemen were guarding the village and police were investigating. District officials in Barisal could not immediately be reached for comment.

India

Gandhi on Nepal, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, PRC

BK1604155889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 Apr 89

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has reiterated that India is willing to hold talks with Nepal to sort out differences. Talking to newsmen at Simla helipad

before leaving for Delhi, he said that the refusal of special work permits to Indians and certain special taxes on Indian goods by Nepal were totally against the treaty.

Asked about the reports of proposed talks between the Sri Lankan Government and the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam], the prime minister said that India will welcome all talks that help to end violence.

Mr Gandhi said the situation in Afghanistan is causing concern and pointed out that unless the Geneva accords are adhered to, peace is not likely to return to Kabul.

About the progress on India-China talks, he hoped that the joint working group will meet very soon.

Further on Gandhi Comments

BK1604162089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1608 GMT 16 Apr 89

[Text] New Delhi, April 16 (AFP)—Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi said Sunday that India was willing to hold talks with Nepal to sort out problems which have arisen following the expiration last month of trade and transit treaties.

But Mr. Gandhi, who was speaking before leaving the northern Indian State of Himachal Pradesh for New Delhi, criticized Nepal for imposing a 55 percent customs duty on goods imported from India and for issuing work permits for Indians residing in Nepal, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said.

He said the the special work permits were not "desirable" and taxes were "totally against the treaties," PTI said.

The agency did not say if Mr. Gandhi was referring to the trade and transit treaties which expired on March 23 or to the 1950 Friendship and Cooperation Treaty between India and the land-locked Himalayan kingdom.

An Indian spokesman said last week that India wanted Indo-Nepalese talks on bilateral relations, which are governed by the 1950 treaty. Kathmandu argues that work permits for Indians and other workers are only intended to maintain documentation of non-Nepalese in the country.

"With a heavy heart the (Indian) Government took a strong position (on the issue)," Mr. Gandhi was quoted as saying. But Mr. Gandhi said India was ready to hold talks to sort out all problems between the two countries, PTI said.

India wants a single pact to govern trade and transit with Nepal, while Kathmandu says they are separate subjects and should be dealt accordingly. The two treaties were once part of a single pact, but in 1978 New Delhi separated them.

New Delhi has been angered by Nepal's import last year of a large quantity of arms from China, which in 1962 fought a war with India over border disputes. Kathmandu has faced acute food and fuel shortages after Indian officials shut 13 of the 15 access points on the Indo-Nepalese border upon the expiration of the two treaties last month.

AFP: Ties With Nepal Plunge to 'New Depths'

BK1504123989 Hong Kong AFP in English 1216 GMT 15 Apr 89

[By Anil Penna]

[Text] New Delhi, April 15 (AFP)—India wants talks on the entire scope of its relations with Nepal, a government spokesman said, in what analysts saw as a sign that ties between the two countries have plunged to new depths.

Relations have cooled rapidly since March 23, when India withdrew trade and transit concessions granted to Nepal after the expiration of pacts governing them, effectively imposing a trade blockade on the tiny Himalayan Kingdom.

Diplomatic fence-mending gestures have failed to heal the rift, which appeared to have widened Friday with an Indian Foreign Ministry spokesman declaring that trade and transit were not the only issues at stake.

The spokesman said India wanted talks to cover the entire gamut of bilateral relations, governed by a 1950 friendship and cooperation treaty, and said a Nepalese new year's speech by Nepal's King Birendra did not go far enough to offer conciliation.

The king said in his speech Thursday that his nation had been "exposed to hardships imposed on us by geography as a landlocked nation." He added that his government was "ever ready to settle this problem through friendly dialogue and negotiation" in what was interpreted as an expression of Kathmandu's readiness to talk with New Delhi on trade and transit disputes.

But the Indian spokesman said the speech showed "little willingness to address the real issues which we believe are important for the further development of relations with Nepal."

He said the entire range of Indo-Nepalese relations needed to be discussed including alleged discriminatory policies against Indian goods and Indians who reside in the Hindu Kingdom, which may be in violation of the 1950 treaty.

The treaty provides for freedom of travel, ownership of property, trade and employment opportunities for citizens of both countries.

Nepalese Ambassador Binda Shah said Saturday she had been surprised by the Indian statement. "I was very hopeful that talks could start next week (on trade and transit)," she told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE. "But now comes this statement and now I am not so hopeful."

"The king's speech is an annual feature," Mrs. Shah said. "It is addressed to the people of Nepal, not to the Government of India. It looks like they (India) are now ready to pick on anything." Mrs. Shah, who paid a brief visit to Kathmandu this week, said she was informing her government about India's latest position.

Although the current dispute has been sparked off by conflicting positions on trade and transit, which India insists should be governed by a unified treaty and Nepal by separate pacts, relations have been noticeably cool for some time.

New Delhi has been angered by Nepal's imports last year of a large quantity of arms from China, which in 1962 fought a war with India, and the imposition of work permits on Indians in the Kingdom.

The Indian Government has said that Indian businessmen have been stopped from opening bank accounts and denied trade licences.

A major bone of contention has been that Nepal, in its 1987 budget, imposed an additional customs duty of 55 percent on Indian goods. Indian requests for the scrapping of the additional duties were rejected.

Then, in what has been seen as the final straw for New Delhi, the Nepalese Government in December 1988 granted a 60 percent duty discount on Chinese goods, culminating in the present tensions. Kathmandu has accused India of muscleflexing.

"What we want is the strict implementation of the friendship treaty and an end to discrimination," a Foreign Ministry official said here Saturday. "We are ready to talk about everything with Nepal," the official said.

Analysts said the coming week could turn out to be crucial in determining—and perhaps redefining—the course of relations between the two Hindu-majority nations.

External Affairs Ministry Spokesman on Nepal

BK1504135889 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 0830 GMT 15 Apr 89

[Text] India says Nepal is ignoring the real and human issues involved the current problem between two countries. Reacting to a speech made by King Birendra yesterday 13/4/89 an External Affairs Ministry spokesman told newsmen that it only concerns narrow and specific question of trade and transit. He said the intent of the king's speech does not indicate a willingness to negotiate the main issues which are important for the further development and strengthening of India's relations with Nepal.

The spokesman said the basic problem is human in nature and involves 10 to 12 million people on both sides of border. He regretted that Nepal continues with its measures of discrimination agqinst Indian nationals. Some of the steps are in open and flagrant violations of the 1950 Indo-Nepal treaty. Under the circumstances, India would like to have direct and detailed talks on whole gamut of relationships with Nepal.

Answering a question, the spokesman said India will not shy away from renegotiating the 1950 treaty. He expressed surprise at the contradictory positions taken by the Government of Nepal even on question of trade. While the king has suggested further talks on the matter, several Nepalese ministers and officials are on record saying that they do not favour any special relation with India. Even a draft submitted by the Nepalese Government suggests that Nepal will be satisfied with a most favoured nation status.

Our correspondent understands that India has found provocative and belligerent a statement by the Nepalese home minister saying they will have a fresh look at citizenship issue involving 6 and a half million people of Indian origin. The situation can worsen if India adopts a posture of retaliation. India also may stop taking a lenient view of the vast property holdings of the Nepalese ruling clique in India if they continue to advise the king in the present manner.

The prime minister has said that the doors are always open for negotiations to sort out the issue concerning the trade treaty with Nepal. Speaking to newsmen at Lucknow this afternoon 14/4/89 Rajiv Gandhi said India wants only one treaty and will act according to international law.

Indian goods in Nepal will be marginally affected because of latest hike in duties on Indian goods by the Nepalese Government. Making this observation in reply to a query by newsmen, an official spokesman said in New Delhi today that Indian Government has conveyed to Nepal about discriminatory imposition of duties on Indian goods. The spokesman said that the earlier excise duty on Indian goods was collected by the Indian Government and reimbursed to Nepal.

Replying to a question, the spokesman said that no foreign mission based in Kathmandu has approached India for petroleum, oil and lubricants. He denied that India is obstructing the movement of petroleum products to Nepal. He also said that India is in favour of negotiations with Nepal on these issues.

Afghan Envoy Refutes Re[ports of Military Aid

BK1504095289 Delhi ISI Di[plomatic Information Service in English 0850 GMT 15 Apr 89

[Text] In New Delhi, the Af[ghan ambassador in India, Mr A. S. Azhar, has categor[rically denied that India is sending military aid or advise[rs to his country. Speaking to newsmen today, 14/4/89[, he said 5 planeloads of foodstuffs and medicines wer[e sent from India purely as humanitarian assistance to h[is country.

Describing the rebel propaga[nda about the Indian military aid to Kabul as diversion[ary tactics, Azhar said this is being done to divert the att[ention from the induction of sophisticated arms from Pa[kistan. He said it also aims at diverting attention from [the presence of Pakistani military advisers with Ameri[cans and Saudi Arabians who are directing rebel activi[ty.

Navy on Alert as Port Wor[kers Prepare To Strike

BK1604131489 Hong Kong A[FP in English 1310 GMT 16 Apr 89

[Text] New Delhi, April 16 (AF[P)—India's Navy was put on alert Sunday at 10 main p[orts as union negotiators made last minute efforts to [avert a strike called by 200,000 dock workers demand[ing large wage rises, officials said.

A government spokesman sai[d security had been reinforced at Bombay and the nine[other ports on the eve of the strike which could effective[ly paralyse maritime trade.

Federal Transport and Labo[ur Department officials were holding talks here Sun[day with representatives from five major port and dock[workers' unions in a bid to find a settlement, the spoke[sman said.

He reported no progress in [the talks which centred around workers' demands for [a 25 percent increase in monthly wages that would cost [the government an additional 100 million dollars a ye[ar.

The government has offered a [14 percent increase which would range from 230 rupees (1[4.7 dollars) [currency not further specified] to 750 rup[ees (48 dollars), but the unions have rejected the offer [as inadequate.

Port authorities have been inst[ructed to recruit temporary workers to ensure that car[gos are not affected if the strike goes ahead, the spokesm[an said.

Two 'Powerful Blasts' Cause[Damage in Srinagar

BK1504032289 Delhi Domestic[Service in English 0240 GMT 15 Apr 89

[Text] In Jammu and Kashm[ir, two powerful blasts rocked Srinagar early last night. The divisional commissioner of Kashmir told our Srin[agar correspondent that one explosion damaged the [outer wall of the main secretariat building and another caused minor damages to the compound wall of the National Cadet Corps House at Tulsibagh. No major casualties have so far been reported.

4 'Terrorists' Killed, 5 Arrested in Punjab

BK1504032589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 15 Apr 89

[Text] In Punjab, four hard-core terrorists were killed in two separate encounters [with security forces] in Gurdaspur District last night. According to official sources, a hard-core terrorist, Puran Singh, and his accomplice were killed in an encounter near village Uttar Kalan in Karian area. In the second encounter near village Dhawan, two hard-core terrorists, Jaspal Singh and Harpal Singh, were killed. They were involved in about 80 crimes, including killings.

The security forces arrested five more terrorists, including one hard-core terrorist, Joga Singh. Some arms and ammunition were recovered from them.

3 Muslim Militants Killed in Kashmir Minefield

BK1604134889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1341 GMT 16 Apr 89

[Text] Srinagar, India, April 16 (AFP)—Three suspected Moslem militants died Sunday in mine blasts while trying to enter the northern Indian State of Jammu and Kashmir from Pakistan, officials here said.

The three alleged militants were killed in two separate blasts at Uri, an Indian Army-held sector on the mountainious Indo-Pakistan border, 130 kilometres (80 miles) from Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir State, Indian officials here said.

The officials said the three men were trying to smuggle into Kashmir Chinese- and Pakistani-made weapons and ammunition from across the border when they stepped on the mines and were killed. They did not say if the mines had been placed by Indian or Pakistani soldiers.

Five people died and hundreds were injured in two Kashmir towns earlier this month in violence triggered by Moslem militants protesting large-scale arrests of civilians by Indian police.

Jammu and Kashmir, which is administered by the National Conference allied to Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) Party, is India's only Moslem-majority state.

India accuses Pakistani intelligence agencies of inspiring unrest in the frontier state. The two countries have disputed Kashmir since the 1947 independence and partition of the sub-continent.

10 Injured in 'Powerful' Bomb Blast in Assam
BK1704030489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Text] In Assam, 10 persons received serious injuries when a powerful bomb exploded yesterday afternoon at Bijni Bazaar in Kokrajhar District. Official sources at Guwahati said that the bomb, suspected to be planted by miscreants, exploded when a large number of people gathered in the market. Police immediately cordoned off the area.

Curfew in Hazaribagh After Violent Incidents
BK1704074889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Text] In Bihar, a curfew has been clamped in Hazaribagh town from midnight last night till 0600 tomorrow morning, following incidents of bomb explosion and arson. One person was killed in a bomb explosion. About a dozen houses were set on fire. According to the commissioner of North Chota Nagpur division, over 100 persons have been rounded up in this connection. Police fired six rounds to disperse the violent crowd. The situation is stated to be tense but under control.

Scientists To Verify Nuclear Fusion Process
BK1604091189 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 16 Apr 89

[Text] Scientists at the Bhabha Atomic Research Center, Bombay, have begun experiments to independently verify the startling American discovery of nuclear fusion in a jar. The director of the center, Dr Iyengar, said a group of scientists set up the fusion experiment and the results will be known in a month.

Iran

Khomeyni Sends Army Day Message to Armed Forces
LD1704141389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Message from Ayatollah Khomeyni to Armed Forces on the eve of Army Day—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I congratulate the brave Iranian nation, and all military and Armed Forces personnel on the occasion of 18 April, the anniversary of the brave and heroic Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic. Praise and glory be upon the Army which broke the yoke of Satan, set fire to the foundations of the 2,500 year-old monarchical rule, and rid itself of the domination of the U.S. oppressors and advisors who had turned Iran into an oasis of stability while nurturing thousands of dreams in pursuit of their interests.

Although the puppet and mercenary military chiefs made a great effort to save the throne, until the last moments of the cursed existence of the Pahlavi reign, the brave decision of the noble military personnel, including officers, NCO's, and soldiers, was so decisive and crushing that it deprived the enemies of God and man of the opportunity to think and decide; and the joining of the Armed Forces, particularly the Air Force, to the divine ranks of the nation became a source of joy for God's subjects and despair and disappointment for the oppressors. The Iranian nation will never forget those sweet and memorable hours and days of the devotion of the Armed Forces to Islam and the Islamic homeland, and the Air Force rightfully played a major part in that.

The joining of the Armed Forces to the people demonstrated its true value and riled the world-devourers. In the early days of the victory of the Islamic revolution, the lackeys of East and West and those who had not fully appreciated the honesty, piety, reliability, and patriotism of the military in the epic of victory attempted to destroy the Armed Forces and, with pseudo-revolutionary and deceptive slogans, were bent on dissolving it and plundering the weapons and destroying the country's defense facilities.

Possibly simple-minded people, influenced by their suggestions, made that cursed aim easier to accomplish. But almighty God saved our country and the Islamic Revolution from their cursed plot and, like a flash of lightning, the proud Armed Forces of Islamic Iran descended on the conspirators, who had nurtured separatist dreams near the various frontiers, and Kordestan, Gonbad, and Torkaman Sahra became the graveyard of the blind-hearted. All these are among the historical and memorable glories of the heroic Armed Forces.

However, more important than all that is the 8-year epic of the holy and innocent defense of the Army, the Guards Corps, and the security and popular forces, which in fact stood up to all world-devourers and sent the aggressors, who had dreamed of capturing Khuzestan within 3 days and then toppling Tehran, to the quagmire of death and destruction. Truly, the Army, the Guards Corps and the mobilization personnel fought innocently and with minimum facilities and gave golden presents of glory, greatness, honor, and martyrdom to dear Islam.

The unprecedented bravery shown by the personnel of the Air Force and Army Aviation and the brave pilots in penetrating deep inside enemy territory and facing the most modern equipment, which was presented by arrogance to the Saddamists, and in defending the country's airspace, demonstrated their commitment to, devotion for and faith in God, Islam, and the Islamic homeland. Maintaining, repairing and rebuilding the complex equipment and parts of aircraft, radar, anti-aircraft guns, and missiles and defending the country are examples of the competence, expertise, and lofty ideals of these dear ones. May God increase their ability and faith.

The heroic Ground Forces, which in fact in all incidents faced the spearhead of the dastardly attacks of the enemies, rightfully demonstrated their true invincibility

and strength in defending the long frontiers of our country. With all the geographic characteristics and severe cold and heat on the western, southern, and northwestern frontiers, coupled with shortages and blockades, made their presence and defensive preparedness not an easy task. In addition, with the cooperation of the Guards Corps and the mobilization corps on most of the battlefields, the Army was able to crush the forces of blasphemy and free our sacred occupied lands from the clutches of the aggressors.

In great operations, such as the breaking of the siege of Abadan, (Fath ol-Mobin), (Beyt ol-Moqaddas), and dozens of other glorious operations, alongside the dear Guards Corps and mobilization personnel, it achieved great victories and glories. It is now defending the frontiers with the utmost strength and firmness and is in full readiness in the face of possible threats.

Thank God, like the other forces, the Navy is a shining jewel in the holy defense of our Islamic homeland, in the Persian Gulf waters, and the country's marine borders, firmly and in glory. The Navy's confrontation with the enemy's navy, and all the glories, heroics, and martyrdom in battle as well as the control and inspection of ships in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz and, above all, its heroic battle against America the aggressor and its serious presence in international waters, demonstrated the might and credibility of that great and proud force. The Iranian nation should be proud of such a pious and faithful Army.

The great Iranian Armed Forces should know that all the glories have been achieved thanks to their faith in God and in the defense of the land of the Lord of the ages—to him we sacrifice our lives—and due to their unity and solidarity and with the support of the people; that great resources and valuable martyrs have been sacrificed to God to reach this peak of Islamic honor and glory; that this same course of action and policy, that is faith, unity and order, must be maintained and strengthened until the end; that the country's Armed Forces, including the Guards Corps and the Army, must be engaged shoulder-to-shoulder in rebuilding and fortifying the defenses of Islam and the country.

I will support the Army, the Guards Corps, and the mobilization corps until the end, and I consider it improper to weaken them. As the commander-in-chief, I command the officials and those who make the decisions not to refrain from fortifying the Armed Forces, raising the level of ideological and military training, increasing the necessary expertise, and especially moving toward military self-reliance, under any circumstances; to maintain this country in full readiness to defend the values of pure Islam and the world oppressed and deprived. God forbid if attention to other programs results in overlooking this vital matter. Without doubt, neglecting to fortify the country's defenses would tempt foreigners to invade and commit acts of aggression and ultimately impose wars and conpiracies.

During the reconstruction period, the Armed Forces should pay the necessary attention to ideological reconstruction. For they have all learned on the battlefields how effective faith and idelogy are in victories and successes and in, strengthening and increasing the resistance of the forces. I thank the dear clergymen and the politico-ideological officials of the Armed Forces, and especially my representative Hojjat ol-Eslam Safa'i, who is one of the pious and sincere figures in this revolution.

I stress that ideological and ethical training should be given more attention. The national service period is the best opportunity for the country's youths, which the Armed Forces and politico-ideological officials could use to familiarize the dear brave youths with the best defensive methods, including practical, scientific, and ideological, so that they can be soldiers and defenders of Islam and our Islamic homeland for the rest of their lives.

Finally, I thank the Armed Forces, especially dear officers, NCO's, soldiers, staff and operational personnel, commanders, my representatives in the Armed Forces and the consultant offices, as well as the Defense Ministry and all the organizations and centers affiliated with the Armed Forces. I pray to God to daily give more strength, stature, and firmness to these true defenders of the Islamic homeland; to unite their valuable martyrs, thanks to the blessings of whom we all have attained freedom and security, with the great martyrs of Islam; to heal their dear war disabled; to return their MIA's and POW's to their homes; to reward and give patience to the great families of the martyrs.

Finally, I strongly point out out to the great Iranian nation, especially the officials in the blessed Islamic Republic system and those who believe in the Islamic Republic system and dear Islam, that whatever occurred during the long years of the revolution, including miraculous victories over all powers and superpowers and owners of the world's mass media, who are bent on destroying the Islamic Republic and in fact the great Islam, and who were unsuccessful, thank God, has been thanks to God's blessing and the faith of all the committed classes in Islamic principles and the blessings of his excellency the remnant of God, peace be upon him. We must all be thankful for this great blessing and strive to preserve it. Peace be upon God's pious subjects. [Signed] Ruhollah al-Musavi al-Khomeyni [Dated] 17 April 1989

POW Commission Announces 1,342 Iraqis Released

LD1704141289 Tehran IRNA in English 1400 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Text] Tehran, April 17, IRNA—A total of 1,342 sick and disabled Iraqi POWs have so far been released by the Islamic Republic with 102 POWs seeking political asylum, the commission in charge of POWs said Monday.

The commission said that in response to Iran's humanitarian gesture the Baghdad regime has to date freed only 949 Iranian POWs mainly border civilians kidnapped in the initial days of its aggression.

It termed the kidnapping of civilian people by the Ba'thist regime during its nearly eight year war against the Islamic Republic as a "blatant violation of the Geneva convention."

The last batch to be released by Iran was on Islamic Republic day (April 1) when 70 sick and disabled Iraqi POWs were unilaterally handed over to the International Red Cross, but four of them refused to return home and sought asylum. The commission blamed Iraq for the delay in the exchange of POWs and for procrastination of U.N. Resolution 598 on the whole.

Velayati on 'Positive Points' in UN Proposal

LD1604195789 Tehran IRNA in English 1808 GMT 16 Apr 89

[Text] Tehran, April 16, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati today reported to the cabinet on the process of the peace talks with Iraq and their future prospect. He said the recent statement of the U.N. chief Javier Perez de Cuellar contains some "positive points" and expressed hope that the 4th round of talks to be held in Geneva April 20, would pave the way for a real peace in the region.

Later, the cabinet session chaired by President 'Ali Khamene'i heard reports by the governors general of Bakhtaran and Ilam provinces on problems of their respective provinces.

Majlis Proposes Amending Constitution

LD1604134889 Tehran IRNA in English 1340 GMT 16 Apr 89

[Text] Tehran, April 16, IRNA—In a letter to the leader of the Islamic Revolution Imam Khomeyni Sunday, a group of 130-plus Majlis deputies proposed amendments to the Constitution to be voted on in a nationwide referendum later.

Among the articles which they said needed to be amended were provisions in relation with the judiciary, the organizational structure of the executive branch of the government and the topic of future leadership. They said the text of the Constitution in the said areas has some major flaws which would have to be awarded or else the normal operation of the state affairs would badly suffer.

The Majlis deputies proposed that the imam assign a commission for drafting a draft amendment to the Constitution. They noted the need for amending the Constitution has been felt by every person involved with the various aspects of the administration of state affairs during the past 10 years.

The Constitution was framed by the "Assembly of Experts," a body of representatives of the people elected on August 3, 1979. It was finally approved by the same assembly on November 15, 1979 and upheld in a nationwide referendum on December 3 of the same year.

Meanwhile in an open session of the Majlis Sunday Deputy Movahhedi Savoji hailed the resignation of Ayatollah Montazeri as "in the interest of the system," and said in order to safeguard the power and solidarity of the revolution the views of the leader of the Islamic Revolution should be obeyed.

He reminded that the position of the leader of a truly Islamic state, is above everything else, including the Constitution. The Majlis deputy who was speaking as a pre-agenda speaker said if the Constitution is to be revised it should be undertaken by a referendum and in a manner provided by the present Constitution.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Called 'Strongest Candidate'

NC1704101289 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 11 Apr 89 p 2

[Editorial entitled: "Political Wings Look One on Rafsanjani's Candidacy"]

[Text] In less than four months from now presidential elections will be launched in the Islamic Republic. So far, the existing political wings in the country have expressed their views on the matter on one way or another.

Following recent position takings by the nation's leadership cadre and current political developments, Iran's powerful Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani appears to be as yet the strongest candidate for the post. It may be even predicted that if he himself has already made up his mind on accepting the job, he will most probably succeed President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i.

Meanwhile secretary of the Ruhaniyun-e Mobarez Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi, in a recent interview, pointed out that the body has reached a unanimous decision to nominate Hashemi-Rafsanjani as its presidential candidate.

As such there can be no doubt that the other political wing in the country, Ruhaniyat-e Mobarez Association too is fully for Rafsanjani in the coming elections.

Now given a roundup of what Rafsanjani himself has said on the issue in recent months it may be assumed that he is trying not to create any unrealistic expectations among his sympathizers; that is, he believes it is not logical to expect him to find hard and fast solutions to the country's social, economic and political problems in a short while once he takes the nation's chief executive seat.

The adoption of a suitable economic strategy that can prepare grounds for economic and industrial growth, as well as coming up with the right plans for the nation's socio-cultural developments are certainly among the

topmost priorities of the Islamic Republic. These issues are challenging enough and everybody is now awaiting Rafsanjani's views in this connection.

A glance at the past record of the speaker however confirms the view that, as at present, Rafsanjani will not be prone to favor any existing political groupings and will maintain a neutral position towards the two views. It seems he has his own particular views on matters of economic and political strategy which will not, probably, be in full accordance with any particular persuasion.

Now one Rafsanjani sits at the presidential seat, the next most important issue will be his choice for premeir, an issue which probably will be good meat to be chomped at during some heated discussions.

Khamene'i Delivers Friday Prayer Sermon
LD1404152389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1200 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Friday prayer sermon delivered by President 'Ali Khamene'i at Tehran University on 14 April—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted] We have said that in order for the regime to gain strength it must enjoy unity and that divisiveness is harmful. [passage omitted]

It is possible that different tastes, thoughts, habits, traditions, histories, geographies, and backgrounds act to separate some people from others. This is only natural since nations and people each have their own particular characteristics.

However, if they are faithful, they can transcend the areas of difference. They will find positive points in other nations, respect them and attach importance to them, unlike nationalism and the nationalistic ways which, during the past 100 or 150 years were characterized by British colonialism—mainly British but also, to a lesser extent, by other colonial countries—and which were spread among the Muslim and Eastern societies. They have revived these nationalistic tendencies so that each nation is so deeply immersed in its own nationalistic characteristics that feelings of anger, criticism, and revenge against other nations are aroused.

Reading the 150 to 200 years of contemporary history of the countries of the Middle East and Asia, I repeatedly feel that one of the most basic ways through which the Europeans—the Europeans who were looking for raw materials to feed their newly set up industries—used to colonize these countries was by creating divisions, building impregnable walls among nations. The fact is that the Muslim nations were not opposed to each other. Well, some were.

Anyway, there was no big difference between Islamic societies. The colonialists revived the nationalists. I deem it necessary here to talk about problems of nationalism—issues which have been repeated since the early time of the revolution.

Since the very beginning we declared that we were strongly opposed to extreme nationalist tendencies. Some ask us whether we are indifferent to Iranian nationalism and Iranian nationalist tendencies, whether we intend to ignore the culture and proud heritage of the Iranian nation.

The answer is no, that is not the case. We believe that nationalism is of two kinds. One kind is very harmful. Another is positive and can be useful.

The nationalism which may be useful is this. A nation, a group of people has a history, a past. It enjoys proud legacies. For instance, we Iranians can pride ourselves on the fact that the greatest philosophers, the greatest scientists, the greatest theologians of the world of Islam since the 2d century [of the Islamic Hagira] onwards came from among us, from our nation. This is a reality. [passage omitted] This is something to be proud of. Our nation throughout these long periods has been pioneers in Islamic philosophy and theology and indeed in Islamic culture.

Our nation defended Islam against Islam's enemies. Our nation stood up against the enemies of Islam and they also gained other numerous achievements of which they can be proud. There is nothing wrong in acknowledging this reality. We agree with the Iranian nation being aware of its power of intelligence and its tendency to go for its rights.

Other nations also have achievements to be proud of. The Arabs have some positive points—they can say that the faith, the Koran was revealed among them. They can say that they were the first to profess faith in the prophet. The Arabs can say that the Koran is written in their langauge. There is nothing wrong with saying so. These are achievements to be proud of. Every nation has things to be proud of. Nationalism in the sense that each nation is proud of its cultural, historical, geographic and popular legacies is not a problem.

However, it must not go so far as to encourage nations to feel superior to other nations and to humiliate others. It is not wrong so long as it does not bring about divisions among the nations; so long as it does not establish nationalism as the main principle, in place of Islam, for the Muslim nations. It is precisely here where colonialism put its finger. When in recent periods colonialism in Iran revived nationalism and the tendency toward Iranianism and Iranian nationalism, it encouraged the kind of Iranian nationalism which had anti-Arab characteristic on the one hand and anti-Turk on the other.

The colonialists intended to use the Iranian nationalism to pitch the Iranian nation against several other Muslim nations. Well, that was an unhealthy thing; it was harmful. To draw the attention of a nation, to entice a nation to rely on its historic characteristics to be against another nation—this is what colonialism can do and which is among the objectives of colonialism.

Colonialism strengthened Arab nationalism among the Arabs to such an extent that the Arabs are hardly prepared to regard non-Arab Muslims as Muslims. I do not say all Arabs are like that; but the tendency which colonialism initiated since the middle of the 19th century was that. That is, colonialism created divisions among nations. In the Islamic world it used nationalism to divide the Islamic nations. It did not feel content only with that, the colonialists began to search among each single nation to find minority ethnic groups, tribal groups or something to use to bring about discord. [passage omitted]

In Iran, some English travellers tried to revive feelings of ethnic divisions among such ethnic groups as Arab, Persian, Baluch, Turk, Kurd, and so on. When one reads the books of these English travellers who travelled to Iran in the 19th century one sees that they used to study these points. They used to rely on these points to see which tribe could be enticed for the purpose. That was a well calculated movement through the whole of the 19th century and until now. The aim was to create divisions, to create differences and disintegration among the integrated society of Muslims. That is what the nonbelievers are doing against the Muslims in a modern fashion—they do it now, today. [passage omitted]

I recommend that you be on your guard when you hear any word from foreign news agencies, foreign commentators, and from foreign broadcasting stations—once you hear any word from them you must look at it with the perception of how that word or piece of news or comment is intended to bring about division, enmity, and discord among our people or part of our society. First of all, that is how you should look at foreign news agencies. [passage omitted]

Thank God we have solved the problem of religious sectarianism in our society. In our society the question of Shi'ite and Sunni does not create discord. Shi'ites are Shi'ites and Sunnis are Sunnis. Neither do the Sunnis feel forced to abandon their belief nor are Shi'ites ready to abandon their belief. They live together. [passage omitted]

I talk about these points because the enemy is investing in these fields—anything which can be used to create discord. We expect differences in taste to exist in our community, but we warn against discord. [passage omitted]

We must combat treachery, cunning, and slyness in any shape or form. Of course, the treacherous and the sly are sometimes people who speak of religion, sanctities, spirituality, and God. They hide themselves in a cloak of holiness. Sometimes they appear in other forms. Treachery and cunning must be recognized in any form. The people must be told about the relevant criteria and standards; from the historical point of view, with reference to the past, existing tales, the curious events of these 14 centuries of Islamic life. They are all full of lessons from which, if the people are informed, they will gain awareness. And the seriousness of the system with regard to its aims and respect for Islamic values is a very important point which the imam has repeatedly stressed.

The system is serious about its aims. The maintenance of the system is the highest aim. But which system? A system which has Islamic aims. Therefore, the importance and value of the system relies on our seriousness and decisiveness with respect to the system's aims. We must not be negligent in our movement toward those aims. We must not make exceptions for friends and relatives. We must focus on the aims of the Islamic system and on Islamic values. That is a summary of the weighty, albeit brief, message of our dear imam to the honorable head of the Islamic Propaganda Organization. It clarifies the subject of propaganda and its scope, a very valuable thing.

I want to say one more thing, and I am running out of time. In the near future, it will once again be time for the Geneva talks between Iranian and Iraqi officials in connection with issues related to peace. First, in the talks, the international officials—that is, UN officials—must be careful that the talks do not become useless. Keeping two nations and the entire world waiting, drawing their attention to talks in which seriousness does not prevail, that would be to ridicule the nations. What sort of talks would that be?

If the parties are not going to be serious about the talks and have no intention of acting, if they do not want to talk in order to make progress, what is the meaning of the talks? We openly state that we feel that Iraq is not taking the talks seriously. Apparently achieving a lasting peace in this region is not a serious aim for Iraq. We issue a warning to people who are involved in that matter on an international level: If Iraq is serious about the peace talks, the first step is that it must withdraw from the Islamic Republic's territory to its international borders. [chants of support]

Of course, we are serious about those talks. When we had the intended to continue the war, we declared so openly. And when we decided to hold peace talks, we declared that openly. We acted seriously in the first case; and in the second case, too, we have acted with seriousness and will continue to do so.

However, it is felt that Iraq was not telling the truth then when it claimed to want peace. And now when it claims it wants to talk, it is speaking contrary to the truth. That attitude is very wrong. It is exactly the opposite of the trust and confidence which must prevail in the atmosphere of the talks.

The Iranian nation are waiting to see where the talks will lead. And the talks must lead to a clear and obvious result. Of course, the next point is that the brothers who will take part in the talks—that is, the Foreign Ministry officials—are trusted by the people and they must rely on the people's trust. Therefore, for some people in this or that corner to murmur things and to question the Foreign Ministry is very ugly and wrong. And unfortunately this is seen sometimes. Some people do bad things without regard for the interests of the country.

The Foreign Ministry, which, as the Islamic Republic's representative, is to sit at the table of one of our most important and epochal talks, must feel that it is trusted by the leadership, organizations, government, officials, and the nation. And I say that the Foreign Ministry and the foreign minister himself has the confidence of the leader, has the confidence of the country's officials and all the people. [chants of support]

Army Day is approaching. God willing, on Army Day the Islamic Republic of Iran's Army will receive suitable and necessary praise. [passage omitted] I feel today that, God be praised, an opportunity has risen for the country's military officials to lay ever greater stress on the pillars of a cohesive and strong army—that is, firstly, on a strong organization and powerful, strong and decisive command which today, God be praised, results from the command of the leader of the revolution and the position of the vice-regency of the supreme jurisconsult and has the necessary strength and foundation. [chants of "Khomeyni Is Our Army, Khomeyni Is Its Commander"]

And secondly, there is the issue of training and equipment and the other pillars for the formation of an orderly and cohesive Army. They should be provided to the greatest possible extent.

Fortunately, we have the Army and we also have the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, which is a revolutionary, armed, experienced force tried and tested on the battlefield. They are the two strong wings and the two powerful hands of the system. The imam has repeatedly stressed that both parts must increase their strength and their preparedness extensively. Of course, their links must also improve from one day to the next. Their cooperation must grow and, God be praised, that is just how it is. [passage omitted]

Nepal

'Huge Quantity' of Salt, Medicine Arrive

BK1504133289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 15 Apr 89

[Text] A huge quantity of salt and medicine from India has reached Nepal. All India Radio Kathmandu correspondent reports that 175 bags of salt and some other goods entered the Himalayan Kingdom through the Raxaul point, while medicines and related equipment through Jogbani entry point. Our correspondent adds that soybean oil, tires, chemicals, soft drinks, and some other consumer items are regularly Nepal from other countries.

Government Denies Indian Report of 'Gunrunning'

BK1504161889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1608 GMT 15 Apr 89

[Text] Kathmandu, April 15 (AFP)—The Nepalese Government denied Saturday an Indian newspaper report of gun trafficking from Nepal to India, calling it "false and malicious." Chief government spokesman Radhe Shyam Bista said the report carried by the TIMES OF INDIA was not based on facts and "was a product of the fertile and wild imagination" of the newspaper's correspondent.

"Such baseless reports serve only to cater to elements that seek to destroy the traditional friendship between Nepal and India," he said. The report alleged that Indian authorities had found "instances" of gunrunning from Nepal to India and that some "anti-social elements with high connections might be indulging in the trade."

Ties between India and Nepal have taken a beating in recent weeks following a dispute over bilateral trade and transit treaties.

Pakistan

Afghan Claim of Helicopter Intrusion 'Rejected'

BK1604024289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 16 apr 89

[Text] Pakistan has rejected the Kabul regime's allegations made last Wednesday [12 April] that two Pakistani helicopters entered Afghanistan and returned after dropping off several Arabian and Pakistani advisers in Samarkhel school on Tuesday.

The Afghan charge d' affaires was summoned to the Foreign Office yesterday and was told that the allegations were found to be baseless after an investigation. He was asked to convey to the Kabul authorities to desist from making such fictitious allegations.

50 Kashmiris Arrested in Karachi Demonstration

BK1604132089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1307 GMT 16 Apr 89

[Text] Karachi, Pakistan, April 16 (AFP)—About 50 Kashmiri residents were arrested here Sunday for demonstrating against alleged oppression in the Indian-controlled portion of the disputed State of Kashmir, witnesses said. The protesters rallied outside the Indian Chancery, but were later dispersed by police.

About 50 demonstrato
disorderly conduct and ors were detained on charges of
more than four persod defying a ban on the assembly of
protest was sponsoreons in the area, police said. The
Liberation Front (JKL d by the Jammu and Kashmir
tions in the city. LF) and Kashmiri youth organisa-

The demonstrators sho
demanding the right touted slogans and carried placards
miri people and denoo self-determination by the Kash-
disturbances in the Incouncing police killings in recent
dian-held portion of Kashmir.

Journalist Arrested f
BK1604144089 Hong **for Misquoting Chief Minister**
16 Apr 89 *Kong AFP in English 1416 GMT*

[Text] Karachi, Pakist
has been arrested forstan, April 16 (AFP)—A reporter
minister, police said Sr misquoting a provincial chief
stani journalist to be Sunday, becoming the first Paki-
restored in November.e detained since democracy was
r.

Iqbal Khwaja, a corres
daily DAWN in the spondent for the English-language
arrested and charged S: town of Thatta near here, was
minister of the southerSaturday with misquoting the chief
national issue. rn province of Sindh on a sensitive

A government spokesn
paper, which misstatedman denied a report by the news-
ter Syed Qaim Ali Shad on Saturday Sindh Chief Minis-
dam upstream on the las' stance on the construction of a
Indus River.

"Freedom of the press
allowed to misguide as does not mean that the media are
spokesman said. and misinform their readers," the

The daily published
government issued it a a clarification Sunday after the
The newspaper said it a legal notice calling for an apology.
has been an inadverten regretted the error and that "there
the news story as publ nt lack of correspondence between
olished and its heading."

It was the first arrest of
restoration of democraof a journalist in Pakistan since the
racy in November, observers noted.

Prime Minister Bena
freedom of the pressazir Bhutto has publicly espoused
policies of official teles and has liberalised the reporting
report the views of oplevision and radio, allowing them to
opposition leaders.

Spokesman on Presi
BK1604161589 Islam **ident's Meetings With Politicians**
1500 GMT 16 Apr 89 *nabad Domestic Service in Urdu*
9

[Text] A Presidential
over a report publishel Palace spokesman expressed regret
today, which is aimed hed in a certain section of the press
d at creating misunderstanding about
the president's meetings with certain political personalities. Explaining the actual position, the spokesman said the president is an elected head of state, and according to the Constitution, a symbol of national unity.

The spokesman added that constitutionally, the president's status is above any partisan considerations. He is an impartial person and that is why he is acceptable to all sections of the people, especially to the country's elected representatives, irrespective of their political affiliations. The spokesman said the president will continue to meet with the people's representatives—irrespective of their political affiliations—as well as with common citizens as and when he finds time to do so.

Spokesman Issues Statement on Punjab Controversy
BK1604163889 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 16 Apr 89

[Text] A spokesman of the federal government has issued a statement in Islamabad today to clarify a controversy about recruitments on Punjab chief minister's orders that these could be equated to appointments of Officers on Special Duty [OSD] by the prime minister.

He said direct appointments made by the chief minister of the Punjab on regular basis bypassing prescribed rules, regulations, and institutional framework of the Government of Pakistan would seriously affect the entire service structure and would be a source of legitimate grievances to those deserving candidates who had joined government service on merit after having gone through competitive examinations. It is not so in the case of appointments of OSD's who are neither inducted in government service on regular basis nor do they affect the conditions of employment of those who are regular government servants.

Such officers on special duty, as the name implies, are officers who are assigned temporarily for specific jobs to assist the government by discharging their specified duties. They are employed on contract for temporary duties and do not in any way affect the career of government servants. The spokesman said the services of OSD's can be terminated at any time without any notice and they are normally not eligible for ancillary benefits that regular government servants enjoy. It is therefore most unreasonable to draw a parallel between the two types of appointments.

Sri Lanka

Foreign Minister Issues Statement on Peace Talks
BK1404105189 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0924 GMT 14 Apr 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, April 14 (LANKAPUVATH)—The Sri Lankan Government has invited the LTTE leadership for talks on issues raised by the political wing of the LTTE. Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of State

for Defence Ranjan Wijeratne also said in a statement issued yesterday that he hoped the LTTE will realise that the desire of the Government of Sri Lanka, is for the withdrawal of the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] from Sri Lanka.

The following is the text of the statement made by the minister of foreign affairs and minister of state for defence, Ranjan Wijeratne:

"The government has noted the open letter you have sent to the president of Sri Lanka dated 11-04-89, purported to be from the 'political wing' of the LTTE. It would appear that the contents of the appeal that has been made by the president has been misconstrued and prejudged. As I stated in my reply to a statement from the JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna], the honesty and sincerity of the president are patently clear.

I wish to reiterate that the government's only interest is in restoring peace, unity and good will amongst all citizens of this country. It is equally interested in removing any political, economic or social injustices through consensus, consultation and compromise, as emphasised in the new UNP manifesto. What is imperative is dialogue.

I hope that the LTTE will realise that the desire of the Government of India and the Government of Sri Lanka is for the withdrawal of the IPKF from Sri Lanka.

Like the invitation extended by the president to the JVP leadership, we are pleased to invite the leadership of the LTTE to have talks with the government on the issues raised by the political wing of the LTTE along with the leaders of other political parties, if the LTTE so wishes.

I wish to repeat what I have stated to the JVP leadership in my reply that the lesson in history is clear. When a nation is wracked in internal conflict, only outsiders will reap the benefit.

Liberation Tigers Agree To Talk With President

BK1504130689 Hong Kong AFP in English 1302 GMT 15 Apr 89

[Text] Colombo, April 15 (AFP)—The leading Tamil seperatist group in Sri Lanka agreed Saturday to talks with President Ranasinghe Premadasa and asked him to make the necessary arrangements for the dialogue.

In a letter to Mr. Premadasa released here the Political Committtee of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) welcomed the president's invitation to the group to hold talks.

"You have made comments that external forces have been able to secure their own interests because of the internal conflict between us," the letter said. "You will appreciate that we have consistently opposed the policy of bringing external forces into the country."

"We wish to inform you that we are prepared to accept your open invitation to talk to us. We hope that you will make the necessary arrangements to facilitate a dialogue."

The LTTE has been waging a bloody guerilla war against some 45,000 to 50,000 Indian troops stationed in the island's Tamil-populated north and east under a July 1987 ethnic peace pact signed between New Delhi and Colombo. The group has repudiated the pact and rejected all earlier invitations for talks by the Governments of India and Sri Lanka.

Premadasa To Talk With LTTE 'Anywhere' on Island

BK1604032589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 16 Apr 89

[Text] The Sri Lankan president, Mr Premadasa, has invited the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] for a dialogue with him anywhere in the island. The secretary to the president said Mr Premadasa has asked the LTTE to nominate an accredited representative to discuss necessary arrangements. The offer follows LTTE's press statement issued from London asking for talks.

The Sri Lanka minister of state for defense, Mr Ranjan Wijeratane, reacting to the LTTE's statement said yesterday that immediate arrangements will be made for negotiations, if they approach the government formally. He said the statement is encouraging, though not sufficient.

President Accepts LTTE Offer for Peace Talks

BK1604111989 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1051 GMT 16 Apr 89

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 16 Apr (LANKAPUVATH)—Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa has accepted an offer made by the political wing of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE] to hold peace talks and has asked that an accredited representative be nominated by the LTTE to discuss the necessary arrangements to facilitate a dialogue anywhere in Sri Lanka.

Secretary to the President K.H.J. Wijedasa said today in a message to the head of the political wing of the LTTE, Anton Balasingham, "Your message to have a dialogue with his excellency the president of Sri Lanka is very much appreciated. His excellency has instructed me to request you to nominate an accredited representative to discuss the necessary arrangements to facilitate a dialogue anywhere in Sri Lanka."

President Premadasa's message was sent less than 12 hours after receiving an open letter from the LTTE which said it was accepting his open invitation for talks and hoped he would make the necessary arrangements to facilitate a dialogue. The LTTE made no conditions to commence talks with the Sri Lankan Government.

Peace Initiative Assessed

BK1604120089 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1059 GMT 16 Apr 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 16 Apr (LANKAPUVATH)—The recent peace initiative of President Ranasinghe Premadasa has given a fresh lease of hope for early return of normalcy in the country.

A press release issued by the Ministry of Finance further states that the government has decided to accord the highest priority to the task of reconstruction and rehabilitation of all affected areas. The reconstruction effort will be undertaken island wide, wherever necessary. This will include rehabilitation of damaged infrastructure and getting affected people back to work and resume economic activities.

The president has directed the Cabinet Subcommittees on Economic Affairs and Socio-Economic Overhead and Infrastructure to monitor the rehabilitation work island wide so that the large sum of money already allocated in the budget for this purpose is fully utilized during the year.

The donor groups have already shown willingness to provide more funds for rehabilitation work depending on the pace of utilization.

AFP: Colombo Accused of Colluding With LTTE

BK1504160689 Hong Kong AFP in English 1550 GMT 15 Apr 89

[Text] Madras, India, April 15 (AFP)—A top leader of the Tamil group ruling Sri Lanka's Northeastern Province Saturday accused Colombo of giving aid to Tamil rebels. Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) General Secretary K. Padmanabha said a section of President Ranasinghe Premadasa's government was helping the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) with arms to fight the Indian Peace Keeping (IPK) troops stationed on the island.

Mr. Padmanabha charged here that aid to the dominant Tamil militant group, engaged in a bloody bush war against the Indian troops, was aimed at undermining the devolution of powers to the Northeastern Province.

He denied a charge by Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne that the EPRLF was responsible for Thursday's car bomb explosion in Sri Lanka's Trincomalee town, which left 46 people dead.

"Throughout our long and hard history, we have always condemned such barbarous and heinous crimes against innocent civilians," Mr. Padmanabha said in a statement in this southern Indian city.

All major Sri Lankan Tamil groups, including the EPRLF and LTTE, have offices in Madras, the capital of Tamil Nadu State, which has a large Tamil community.

Mr. Padmanabha said such acts "will never usher in peace," and added "the very same people who used the dirty arm of state terrorism to murder innocent people are now inciting sanguinary groups to further tension among various communities in Sri Lanka."

If the government of Mr. Premadasa really wanted peace it must stop "covert and overt help" to such groups and also stop false propaganda against forces like the EPRLF, Mr. Padmanabha said.

India has between 45,000 and 50,000 troops in Sri Lanka's north and east under a 1987 peace pact aimed at crushing the LTTE's Tamil separatist campaign. Some 730 Indian troops and more than 2,000 suspected LTTE rebels have died in the fighting since October 1987.

Minister Seeks Joint Patrols in Trincomalee

BK1604115289 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 16 Apr 89

[Text] Indian officials were summoned last Friday [14 April] and told that the Sri Lanka Army and police should join the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] in providing security to some areas in the Trincomalee District where violence flared last week, killing over 50 persons.

Foreign Affairs Minister and State Minister for Defense Ranjan Wijeratne (?summoned) the Indian High Commission's military liaison officers and told them to face up to the reality that sections of the population of Trincomalee do not have sufficient faith in the Indian troops to provide them with adequate security.

Initially, Sri Lankan soldiers and police operated with the IPKF in providing security to the Kinniya-Mutur area where Tamil-Muslim clashes resulted in about 10 deaths, and so, hundreds of Muslims [are] residing temporarily, abandoning their houses and seeking refuge elsewhere.

Mr Wijeratne summoned the Indian officials to the headquarters of the Joint Operations Command after an on-the-spot investigation in Trincomalee town where a car bomb exploded on Thursday, killing nearly 50 persons, mostly Sinhalese residents, and the Kinniya area where clashes had occurred earlier.

Foreign Ministry Secretary Bernard Tillakaratne, who left for New Delhi on Thursday, was also asked by Mr Wijeratne to apprise the Indian authorities of the need to have tripartite security in some areas of the disturbed Trincomalee District on an assurance to the people there. [sentence as heard]

India is due to withdraw 5,000 IPKF soldiers, starting on Tuesday [18 April] said Mr Wijeratne, requesting the Indian authorities to pull out soldiers from the Kinniya area so that Sri Lankan troops could be inducted there as strongly urged by the residents who have left their homes in fear.

141 'Misguided Youth' Surrender To Government

BK1404112889 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0934 GMT 14 Apr 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, April 14 (LANKAPUVATH)—A total of 141 misguided youth have given themselves up to the authorities following President Ranasinghe Premadasa's call for all those engaged in violence to lay down their arms, accept the offer of an amnesty and enter the democratic political process.

Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that 45 misguided youth had reported at reception centres manned by civilians during the last two days after the security forces suspended offensive operations for a period of one week, commencing April 12.

Official sources said 60 youth had laid down their arms and given themselves up to authorities at Anuradhapura, 47 at Kurunegala, Kalutara 10, Moneragala, 5 Kandy, 2 one each in Colombo, Polonnaruwa, Ampara and Badulla.

7 Indian Soldiers, 6 'Northern Terrorists' Killed

BK1404111189 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0941 GMT 14 Apr 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, April 14 (LANKAPUVATH)—Seven Indian soldiers were killed and five wounded, while four northern terrorists were killed and five wounded in an encounter between the Indian Peacekeeping Force (IPKF) and terrorists at Iranai, Vavuniya, yesterday. Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that Indian troops had recovered the bodies of two of the dead terrorists, along with two AK-47 rifles.

A terrorist, Annambalam Sundaram, was shot dead in an encounter with the IPKF in Jaffna, yesterday. Indian troops also seized 2 AK-47 rifles with 128 rounds of ammunition and 1 carbine with 40 rounds of ammunition. One terrorist escaped leaving his gun behind.

The IPKF also shot dead a terrorist, east of Kachchi in Jaffna yesterday after he lobbed a hand grenade at Indian troops and tried to escape. In another encounter at Uralu in Jaffna one terrorist was shot dead by Indian troops. One rifle, 1 steel carbine machine gun and 160 rounds of ammunition were seized along with one walkie talkie.

A report from Trincomalee states that unidentified persons had attacked the village of Kurinchkeni killing five inhabitants two men, three children and one woman.

'At Least' 35 Killed in Stepped-up Rebel Attacks

BK1504123489 Hong Kong AFP in English 1215 GMT 15 Apr 89

[Text] Colombo, April 15 (AFP)—A Sri Lankan Army officer and 21 soldiers were killed Saturday [15 April] in stepped-up attacks by Tamil and Sinhalese rebels, making a mockery of a government-declared ceasefire, officials here said. They said at least 13 more people were killed and several wounded in other ceasefire violations by the rebels.

Military officials said an officer and 20 other soldiers were killed when suspected rebels of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) ambushed them in the northeast of the island.

Earlier in the day, officials said Sinhalese rebels set off a landmine under an Army patrol vehicle in the south of the island, killing one soldier. Then rebels believed to be members of the LTTE, the leading Tamil separatist group, attacked in the northeast when troops were returning from Kent Farm to their camp at Gajabahupura with soldiers relieved from night duty, they said.

"According to first information, there was a big explosion followed by gunfire," one official said, adding: "Whether it was a landmine blast or merely a big explosion to stun the soldiers is not known." The officials said there were unconfirmed reports that three civilians were also killed in the gunfire.

A large search operation was under way in the area to apprehend the rebels, they added. The government had settled hundreds of Sinhalese families in the Weli Oya area in recent years despite protests by the Tamils, who consider the area as part of their traditional homeland.

The officials said suspected LTTE activists also bombed a market in the northern town of Jaffna Friday, killing four people and wounding 17. The Jaffna government hospital confirmed that four dead had been brought to the hospital, while 17 injured were being treated.

Indian officials said LTTE rebels had hijacked a new Indian-donated bus from the nearby university campus shortly before the blast and set it on fire. Indian troops who rushed to the scene shot dead one of the two rebels who were seen fleeing after torching the bus.

The LTTE had been blamed for a similar bomb blast in eastern Trincomalee town Thursday which left 46 people dead and 54 wounded, but the group denied involvement in the blast.

India has stationed 45,000 to 50,000 troops in the island's Tamil-populated north and east under a July 1987 ethnic peace pact signed by Colombo and New Delhi.

The LTTE, which repudiated the pact, has been waging a bloody bush war against the Indians and has vowed to continue its struggle for an independent state of Tamil Eelam. It has also rejected the government's unilateral week-long ceasefire which was declared Wednesday in a bid to bring the rebels into the democratic mainstream.

Sinhalese rebels belonging to the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front) Saturday set off a landmine under an Army patrol vehicle in southern Hambantota District, killing one soldier and wounding three. They said the patrol was on an "administration detail" when it was ambushed, the first rebel attack on security forces since the ceasefire began.

In other incidents in the Sinhala-majority areas, JVP activists dragged out four supporters of the ruling United National Party (UNP) from their houses in southern Morawaka village and hacked them to death late Thursday, the officials said. Five others, three of them UNP supporters, were shot dead by the rebels in seperate incidents in the south on Thursday and Friday, they said.

Meanwhile, the officials said four rebels gave themselves up at a reception centre set up by the government in northwestern Puttalam District Friday. According to official figures, 40 Sinhalese rebels had surrendered since the ceasefire was declared.

In a seperate incident, two soldiers were killed and 10 wounded when the South African-made Buffel armoured peronnel carrier in which they were travelling overturned at Ambanpola in the north western Kurunegala District Friday night. The officials described it as an accident, but could not say what the armoured personel carrier was doing on the road since all security operations had been suspended under the ceasefire.

Further on Ambush

BK1504125089 London BBC World Service in English 1200 GMT 15 Apr 89

[From the "Newsreel" program]

[Text] Twentyone Sri Lankan soldiers are reported to have been killed in an ambush in the northeast of the island. Tamil Tigers separatist fighters are believed to have carried out the attack which came in defiance of a unilateral cease-fire declared by the security forces on Wednesday [12 April]. A report from (Chris Nuttall) in Colombo:

[Begin (Nuttall) recording] The Tigers staged their ambush in the northeastern district of Weli Oya. They blew up two tractors carrying soldiers with remotely detonated land mines and then opened fire from the surrounding jungle. One Sri Lankan officer and 20 soldiers were killed. There are unconfirmed reports that three civilians also died.

In the south, extreme nationalist guerrillas, who have been copying the Tigers' tactics, blew up an Army jeep with a land mine this morning, killing a corporal and injuring three other soldiers.

The killings amount to a violent rejection by both sets of fighters of a week-long cease-fire. The government had hoped that it would lead to the guerrillas giving themselves up and accepting an amnesty. But since the truce was declared on Wednesday more than a hundred people have been killed in violence throughout the island. Forty six people died and 54 were injured when a car bomb exploded in the eastern port of Trincomalee on Thursday. In a similar incident in the northern city of Jaffna last night, four people were killed and 17 injured by a bomb going off in a market place. Tamil militants are thought to be responsible.

It appears that the Tigers and the JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna], as the extreme nationalists are known, may be using the cease-fire as an opportunity to set up ambushes and plant land mines. Troops have been ordered to suspend operation against them and are largely confined to their camps. There is no sign yet of the government calling the truce off, but with the violence escalating and only 40 people having surrendered so far, the cease-fire is clearly not being successful. [end recording]

Security Forces, IPKF Launch Offensive

BK1504132089 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1235 GMT 15 Apr 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, April 15 (LANKAPUVATH)—LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists were reported to have suffered heavy casualties in a joint Sri Lankan security forces-Indian Peace Keeping force (IPKF) operation which followed the killing one Sri Lankan officer and 20 soldiers at Gajapura, Weli Oya, in the eastern district of Trincomalee this morning, security sources told LANKAPUVATH.

They said Sri Lankan Air Force and IPKF helicopters had participated in the counterattack against the LTTE terrorists at Nittikaikulam and Andamkulam, the area bordering this morning's ambush by terrorists, in which 21 Sri Lankan Army personnel were killed.

Giving details, security sources said that one officer and 4 soldiers travelling in a jeep had been ambushed by LTTE terrorists this morning at Gajabapura. Reinforcements had been called which was followed by the joint Sri Lankan security forces and IPKF operations against the LTTE terrorists.

4 Soldiers Killed; Security Increased
BK1704084689 Hong Kong AFP in English 0837 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Text] Colombo, April 17 (AFP)—Anti-government Sinhalese rebels blew up an Army patrol in southern Sri Lanka Monday killing four soldiers, as police beefed up security in Colombo following three bomb attacks, officials said.

Suspected activists of the Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front) exploded a landmine as the army vehicle passed through Embilipitiya village killing four men instantly, defense officials said.

They said the soldiers, eight of whom were wounded, were on administrative duty and not on an anti-rebel operation in line with a government declared week-long unilateral ceasefire due to end Wednesday.

During the truce, intended to persuade Tamil and Sinhalese militants to surrender and enter mainstream politics, political violence had continued leaving over 125 people dead since April 12.

Officials said that in another attack Monday, JVP fighters fired at Katupotha police station in Northwestern Kurunegala District, but police and army reinforcements fought back killing one of the attackers.

"We recovered a shot gun and some ammunition from the man who was shot dead by troops. We believe many subversives may have been wounded," an official here said.

The latest violence came as police stepped up security and checks on vehicles in the capital Monday after three bomb attacks here left dozens of people wounded.

Over 35 Tamil passengers were wounded, 10 of them seriously, when unidentified men lobbed a grenade into their bus when it stopped at a red light in Colombo's fashionable Cinnamon Gardens area late Sunday, police said.

They said the attackers escaped in a motorcycle and within minutes attacked a office of a Tamil political party and a private bus station operating services to the island's Tamil heartland in Jaffna Peninsula.

Heavily armed police searched vehicles and were seen on mobile patrols in the capital.

The bomb blast at the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) office here, adjoining the Sri Lankan Air Force headquarters, damaged the building slightly, but there were no casualties, police said.

The EPRLF is a Tamil separatist group turned political party, which has accepted a July 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord which sought to end a campaign for a Tamil homeland called Eelam. Police said two suspects had been arrested.

"The targets were clearly Tamil. But we cannot figure out immediately who was responsible for it," an official here said.

No one has so far claimed responsibility for the three bomb attacks which came two days after Tamil guerrillas set off a car bomb in northeastern Trincomalee town killing 45 members of the majority Sinhalese community.

A day later on Saturday, Tamil militants blew up 21 Sri Lankan soldiers in neighbouring Weli Oya District. Both attacks triggered communal tension in the multi-ethnic eastern region.

There was a backlash by Sinhalese against Tamils in Colombo and its immediate suburbs after rebels blew up 13 Sinhalese soldiers in July 1983. The bloody ethnic clashes left more than 400 people, mainly Tamils, dead.

India has some 45-50,000 peacekeeping troops in Sri Lanka's Tamil-populated north and east under the peace accord. The troops have been fighting a bush war against the dominant Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) since October 1987 after the group repudiated the pact.

Some 735 Indian soldiers and more than 2,000 suspected LTTE rebels have died in the fighting since then.

Bomb Kills 12, Wounds 17 in Jaffna
BK1504000589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0035 GMT 15 Apr 89

[Text] In Sri Lanka, another powerful bomb blast last evening killed 12 persons and injured 17 others near the university campus in Jaffna. The injured have been rushed to the Jaffna Hospital. A militant group is suspected to be behind the blast. The crude bomb reportedly went off while it was being carried by militants in a vehicle. Those killed were mostly pedestrians and people living inside nearby buildings. The Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front has condemned the killing of innocent people.

Meanwhile, the situation in the curfew-bound Trincomalee town has improved. The curfew is being relaxed for 4 hours from 1000 this morning. It may be recalled that 46 persons lost their lives in a car bomb blast on Thursday [13 April] in Trincomalee.

Tamil Party Denies Hand in Trincomalee Bomb Blast
BK1504133089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 15 Apr 89

[Text] The Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front—EPRLF—has denied the allegation of the Sri Lankan minister, Mr Ranjan Wijeratne, that the Sinhalese in Trincomalee blamed the EPRLF for Thursday's [13 April] bomb blast [In Trincomalee].

In a statement, the secretary general of the front, Mr K. Padmanabha, said the chain of events which took place in Trincomalee, Samanthurai, and Jaffna were engineered by the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] and the divisive forces from the ruling United National Party.

4 Killed, 17 Wounded in Jaffna Blasts
BK1604115689 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1053 GMT 16 Apr 89

["OANA/pool" Item]

[Text] Colombo, 16 Apr (LANKAPUVATH)—Four civilians were killed and 17 injured following two explosions which rocked the area south of Kokkuvil in Jaffna, late Friday evening [14 April]. Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that a house, a van, a motorcycle and 12 push bicycles had been damaged. They said that an Indian Peacekeeping Force patrol, which was rushed to the scene of the explosions, was fired at by terrorists. In the exchange of fire that followed one terrorist was killed. One explosive device, one grenade and four jerry cans were seized.

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